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Torres: Govt employees deserve recognition. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

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A record-breaking MMAC

Luminaries light up the night in memory of those who lost the battle against cancer during the annual Marianas March Against Cancer event last Friday at the Hopwood Middle School field.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer last Friday and Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School field broke multiple records in MMAC history.

From the number of participating teams to the number of sponsors, the 16th Annual Marianas March Against Cancer exceeded all records of previous years.

According to MMAC steering committee co-chair Bobby Cruz, this

See MMAC on Page 4

Ex-Labor chief acquitted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Labor secretary Edith Eleanor Deleon Guerrero was acquitted Friday of all three traffic charges filed against her.

A beaming Deleon Guerrero strode out of the U.S. District Court courtroom—where the Superior Court is temporarily holding hearings—with her lawyer, assistant public defender Heather Zona, after Superior Court

See EX-LABOR on Page 4

Former Labor secretary Edith Eleanor Deleon Guerrero and her counsel, assistant public defender Heather Zona, are all smiles as they emerge from the Horiguchi Building in Garapan Friday afternoon after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho acquitted Deleon Guerrero of all three traffic charges.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

KCHC plans to expand services

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Kagman Community Health Center board of directors can now focus on making sure some of their plans would materialize, now that the legal drama involving the facility that they are using had been settled.

KCHC re-opened its doors last Saturday morning, with KCHC board chair Velma Palacios, chief executive officer Vince Castro, and some of their staff welcoming Gov.

See KCHC on Page 4

House OKs funding bill for mold remediation, Docomo payment

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

» **Propst: MOU with Docomo is non-binding**

The House of Representatives passed last Friday a second attempt to appropriate funding to address the mold and air-conditioning issues of the Judiciary's Guma Hustisia.

The measure to appropriate $8.3 million passed on a vote of 19-1.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-165 seeks to appropriate $7 million to remedy the mold and air-conditioning problem

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Micronesia under Japan reached a level of economic independence that has yet to be replicated.
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BUSINESS
A Tesla sedan with a semi-autonomous Autopilot feature has rear-ended a fire truck.
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ASIA
The Philippine Supreme Court ousted its chief justice, a critic of President Rodrigo Duterte.
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INDUSTRY PARTNERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres meets with his administration's industry partners on Friday morning in furthering government-community partnership. The tri-partnership meeting was with Board of Education chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada and vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio; Kagman Community Health Center board chair Velma Palacios, and IT&E general manager Rose Soledad. IT&E provided material support in the restoration of the CNMI Museum of History and Culture and for free internet service connectivity on all of Saipan's youth centers.

Local

Bill allocating over $900K to CCA OK'd

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A bill allocating over $900,000 to the Commonwealth Cancer Association was signed into law during the Marianas March Against Cancer event last Friday in a surprise move for the community.

It was learned that MMAC co-chairs Bobby Cruz and Carline Sablan worked with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to keep the signing of House Bill 20-29 a secret until the opening ceremony for the 16th Annual Marianas March Against Cancer at the Hopwood Middle School field.

Public Law 20-58, formerly known as H.B. 20-29 that was authored by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), allocates $931,340 to the cancer association.

According to Torres, the allocation will form a special account to support oral cancer awareness and prevention. A total of $150,000 will go to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s dental clinic program, $350,000 will go to the Commonwealth Cancer Association, $50,000 will fund inter-island travel for Rota and Tinian patients, $50,000 will go into the CHCC betel nut program, and more.

"I, too, lost my best friend—two of them actually, a few years ago and it does matter. Survivors, you are our hope. You give us the strength to move forward… we need to fight this together and I cannot thank the Legislature enough for making this as a priority for all of us," Torres said.

Cruz encourages the community to look at the signing of the bill as more than a political gain but a means to battle cancer.

"Cancer is not a political issue, it's…a human issue…this is not about the party that you represent, it's not about the fact that it's campaign season, it's really about the community…it's about the statistic that one in every two individuals is going to get cancer in their lifetime…this is our issue as one CNMI," he said. "It's really about the fact that they're allocating this amazing amount of money to be able to help folks who are battling cancer."

Sablan said it takes the entire CNMI to fight cancer.

"We really need to be successful in this effort," she said.

The funding will go to helping the 161 cancer patients that CCA currently assist. According to a previous *Saipan Tribune* article, in 2016 to 2017 alone, the association saw a 65-percent increase in the number of cancer patients in the CNMI.

The CCA offers assistance through donations and fundraisers. It does not offer actual cancer treatment, but they provide food vouchers and fund amenities needed by cancer patients such as wheelchairs, beds, etc.

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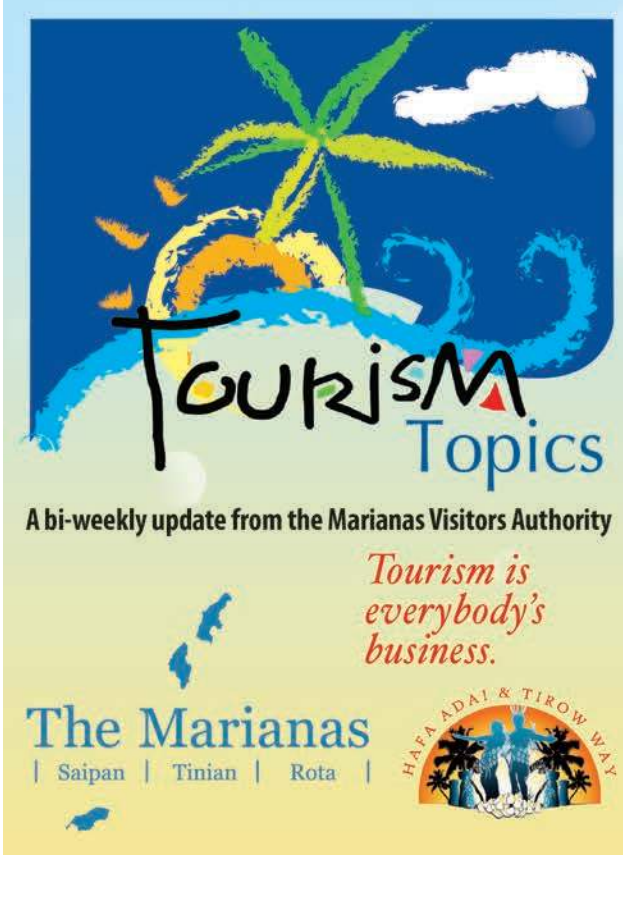
Tourism Topics
A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Ex-DCCA chief Faisao appeals to high court

Former Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao is appealing to the CNMI Supreme Court the Superior Court's ruling that denied his claim of being an heir of the Rita Rogolifoi estate, which was awarded $2.7 million plus interest for land compensation in 2009.

Faisao notified the Superior Court of his appeal to the Supreme Court last week. In it, he wants the high court to reverse Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's ruling last April 10.

Faisao did not provide other details in the notice. He filed the notice *pro se* or without a lawyer.

In the April 10, 2018 judgment, Camacho ruled that Faisao is not a descendant of Rita Rogolofoi's children and therefore has no right to her property or a share in the estate.

Camacho said that Faisao has failed to prove that Pedro Rogolifoi was the original owner of a piece of land in As Mahetog, that Pedro Rogolifoi is the father of Macaria Rogolifoi Faisao, that Rita Rogolifoi and Macaria Faisao are sisters.

Melvin Faisao alleges that he is the grandson of Macaria Rogolifoi Faisao.

Melvin Faisao also contends that the property in Rita Rogolifoi's estate originally belonged to Pedro Rogolifoi and was held in trust in Rita Rogolifoi's name for Pedro Rogolofoi's family, including Macaria Faisao and her descendants, according to Carolinian custom.

As a descendent of Macaria Faisao, he claims entitlement to a share of the property and proceeds from the property within the estate.

Clarence "Bud" White, the administrator for the Rita Rogolifoi estate, denies Melvin Faisao's allegations.. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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HOUSE

From Page 1

of the Guma Hustisia and pay off $1.3 million to Docomo Pacific.

The provision to appropriate $1.3 million to Docomo Pacific satisfies a previous memorandum of understanding between the CNMI government and the company. When Docomo was laying down its fiber optic cable underwater to provide faster connectivity to the CNMI, the CNMI sought to have Rota and Tinian connected to the cable. Docomo pointed out that this would bump up the project cost by an additional $6.9 million. Most of that amount was funded by federal sources.

The remaining $1.3 million, with $650,000 each for Tinian and Rota, is included in the $8.3-million appropriation bill.

However, during discussions, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) pointed out that an MOU is non-binding in nature, meaning there is no legal obligation to satisfy the conditions within the agreement.

Propst further pointed out several key points, including the fact that the MOU did not specifically indicate that the CNMI would be shouldering the additional costs needed to connect Rota and Tinian and the fact that the MOU was signed without the approval of the Attorney General's Office, further rendering it non-binding.

According to Propst's meeting with Docomo Pacific president and chief executive officer Jonathan Kriegel as well as other company executives, the company did not have a contract with the CNMI government; however, Propst was assured that Docomo was open to coming up with a contract.

"I'm not opposed to having the fiber optic cable connecting to Rota and Tinian. We are all one Commonwealth—we all agreed to that. But we have to ensure that, as lawmakers, we follow the law—to the tee," he said, adding that passing H.B. 20-165 would open the government to a possible taxpayer lawsuit.

In response, Demapan said, "This is an obligation one way or another that the government entered into with Docomo so that the project may be extended to our citizens and residents of the islands of Tinian and Rota."

Propst questioned whether Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, one of three signatories of the MOU, approached the House in his official capacity as CNMI governor to request for funding to satisfy the MOU. Demapan responded that Torres approached his committee—the House Ways and Means Committee. The other two signatories were Kriegel and Docomo Guam Holdings Inc. chair Koichiro Takahara.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he does not understand why the issue is tied into the mold and air-conditioning issue of the Judiciary, which has caused the Guma Hustisia to close down for 31 days already.

Dela Cruz moved to strike out the provision appropriating $1.3 million to Docomo Pacific. He further proposed to have the provision be a stand-alone legislation in order to garner comments from the Office of the Public Auditor as well as the AGO.

"Let us not try and hold back what the initial intent was, to assist the Judiciary," he said.

After a lengthy recess, the leadership stood divided during the roll call vote for the amendment. Ultimately, Dela Cruz's amendment was defeated by a vote of 7-13.

Reps. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Propst, and Dela Cruz voted to omit the provision paying Docomo Pacific.

H.B. 20-165 passed the House ultimately with a vote of 19-1, with Propst voting against and Barcinas, Dela Cruz, and Itibus voting yes with reservation.

H.B. 20-164, which was also authored by Demapan and also sought to appropriate money from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax to the Judiciary and Docomo, among others, is still held at the conference committee, which is slated to meet on May 21, 2018. Demapan said in an interview that since the Senate had no concerns with the two provisions appropriating to the Judiciary and Docomo, it would be more time-efficient to introduce a legislation that addresses the two urgent appropriations.

KCHC

From Page 1

Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) to the facility.

The KCHC medical staff, led by director Dr. Katherine Elstun, will start seeing patients again starting today; they can be reached at 783-7102.

KCHC used to sit on land that was titled to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The title to the property has since been transferred to the Department of Public Lands, which then titled the land to the Governor's Office, which in turn, transferred the title to KCHC. Those transfers were assisted by the Office of the Attorney General and Office of the Governor's legal counsel Gil Birnbrich.

Torres signed the memorandum of agreement late Friday night when he was attending the Marianas March Against Cancer at Hopwood Middle School to make sure KCHC would resume its operations as soon as possible.

Now they are back at their original facility, Castro said the board could now discuss some of its plans for the CNMI. "Now that we're independent, we can certainly make the board's vision into fruition much quicker."

"We're basically now be able to expand and we already have our strategic plan. Again, thank you all for their support. We're back here, because the community wants us here. We have license to use the premises and for our services to continue here."

Palacios said that they want to work with the Office of the Governor and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in opening up other clinics in the CNMI. "We will continue our mission of providing continued healthcare."

"We do have plans. We want to work with the governor and the CHCC in providing other clinics in other areas in the CNMI. Our goal is to also go to Rota and Tinian," added Palacios.

Torres welcomed the news and looks forward to KCHC's plans in providing healthcare in the entire CNMI soon. "I'm confident that they would continue to provide healthcare. I hope that we could extend that to other villages."

"We're looking forward to have them in the north side like in the Tanapag and San Roque areas, in Koblerville and San Antonio in the south. Also on Rota and Tinian. It would cover the entire CNMI."

MOU signed

Torres said the transfer of the license to KCHC went through the right process, with him signing the MOU while he was at the Office of the Governor's booth at the MMAC last Friday night. "It went through the right process. The AG was even part of the transaction."

"It is no different with what we did with the Hope Center. It is public land given to the government and the government turned it over to a non-profit organization. And [KCHC] is a non-profit organization."

Torres added the government did the same with the hospital and the other facilities on Capital Hill that was under public lands and were given to the government, and to different divisions like the Public School System, Women's Affairs Office, etc.

He said his office had been working out a solution to the crisis even before he left for his trips in Oregon and Alaska. "I've been updated with the situation even when I was off island."

"I even talked to the AG to iron out all the differences.... But, like I said, at any rate we should have not closed the clinic. We should have talked through our differences."

Senate President Palacios (R-Saipan) added that with the issue settled, it now a new beginning for KCHC. "Now, the slate is clean. …We had our disagreements in the past but, for the sake of the community, we will set those differences aside and move forward. We must also do our best to have a better relationship and communication in the future."

Thank you

Velma Palacios thanked the Santa Soledad Parish and the entire Kagman community.

"We are really thankful to [Santa Soledad Parish priest] Rev. Fr. Jesse Reyes for letting us use the social hall so we could continue to provide healthcare services. He [Reyes] saw the importance of KCHC for his community here."

"Thank you to all your hard work in keeping us here, wanting us to stay here, and the outpouring of support. The issue should really have not come this far."

EX-LABOR

From Page 1

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho acquitted her, saying the CNMI government failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

As soon as assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. rested the government's case, Zona immediately asked the judge to acquit Deleon Guerrero of the charges of using a government vehicle that had tinting on its windows, that was not marked as a government vehicle, and did not bear government license plates.

The government rested its case after its sixth witness, former Workforce Investment employee Nikonia Tudela, completed her testimony.

Camacho said the government has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the vehicle driven by Deleon Guerrero is a government vehicle as defined in the Traffic Code, requiring a lease to be 12 months or more.

He adjudged Deleon Guerrero not guilty of all three charges, which carry a total of up to $1,500 fine and/or nine days imprisonment.

"The court can only follow the law as written," the judge said, adding that if the Office of the Attorney General does not like the definition of ownership of government vehicles, the OAG must go to the Legislature to change the definition.

Camacho said the actions of then-Labor secretary Deleon Guerrero of renting vehicles on a month-by-month basis did not violate the black-letter definition of the law.

Camacho said that repeatedly renting vehicles may be more expensive than if the government simply purchases the vehicle.

"Renting month to month, though technically not illegal…, raises question of whether it is the best use of limited taxpayer money," the judge said.

Whether Deleon Guerrero made a poor decision for using taxpayer money in renting vehicles month after month, only the voters and the political branches of the legislative and executive can answer that question, Camacho said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MMAC

From Page 1

year's MMAC had 20 teams and the support of 35 sponsors.

"We've never had 20 teams participate in the past. The closest we came was 19 teams and that was several years ago…it's so awesome…and we received 35 sponsors this year, which is just amazing," he said.

MMAC steering committee co-chair Carline Sablan said the committee also sold out its shirts and luminaries.

"We ordered 5,000 luminaries and we had to get wick candles because we sold out and it was just an amazing year," she said.

The result of this year's MMAC is a testament to how far the community has come in terms of its involvement in the fight against cancer, Sablan said.

"It's definitely gaining more and more support from the community…we're definitely bringing everyone together to join in the fight against cancer," she said.

Cruz said that he and his team started as early as possible, which he believes was the reason for the success of the event.

"We had very strong support from the community… we had an incredible support team…but also we started early. We really wanted to pay attention to all the details, to make sure that we had ample time to reach out to the community to make sure everyone knew about what the march against cancer is about," he said.

This year's MMAC also raised more cash donations compared to last year.

This year, MMAC raised $179,936 in monetary donations. That's $15,383 more than the $164,553 raised last year.

Overall, MMAC raised $250,800 in-cash and in-kind donations this year. Last year, MMAC raised $220,300. All donations received through MMAC will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association to aid those who are still battling cancer.

As usual, MMAC awarded plaques to the team that won in categories like Most Funds Raised, Best Baton, Best Tent, Community Spirit, Inspirational Spirit, Most Laps, Most Luminaries Sold, Rising Star, and Rookie of the Year during the closing ceremony.

The Rising Star award was given to team TanHoldings and Kagman High School for generating significantly more than they did in previous years.

The Rookie of the Year award was given to Team CNMI PSS and Saipan Paddle Club for being the newest team to join MMAC and for embodying this year's theme: "One Community, One Journey."

The Community Spirit award was given to Team Bodig for their enthusiasm and participation in all the MMAC meetings. Team Bodig also took home the award for Most Money raised in the Pullan (family) category.

The Inspirational Spirit award was given to Talaabwogh Star for their unwavering spirit throughout the night.

The Most Laps award was given to Marianas Health Services for running the most laps from start to finish.

The Most Luminaries Sold award was given to Fa'ye for selling about $8,000 worth or luminaries.

The Best Baton award was given to IT&E and Saipan Southern High School for representing their team's theme perfectly through their baton.

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation and the Northern Marianas College took home the Best Tent award for their creativity and the amount of work put into the decoration of their tent. The team also won the most funds raised under the Tanu (non-profit/and or school/institution/ and or government) category.

The most money raised in the Puti'on (corporate) category was Team Pacific Islands Club.

For the most Money Raised in the Atdao (nonprofit/government) category, the award was given to team Northern Marianas Islands Football Association.

The award for Most Money raised in the Napu (school) category was given to Mount Carmel School.

The award for Most Money raised in the Tasi (corporate/ family/non-profit or school) category was given to Team Lancheros.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Friends of the Mariana Trench would like to express its thanks to everyone whose contribution led to the success of the Marine Ecology via Remote Observation Workshop last month.

Robot workshop organizers credit supporters, participants for success

The Friends of the Mariana Trench would like to express its thanks to everyone whose contribution led to the success of the Marine Ecology via Remote Observation Workshop last month.

"The Mariana Trench inspires the next generation of local explorers, engineers, and scientists," said Laurie Peterka, secretary for Friends of the Mariana Trench. "But the success of this workshop is owed to our sponsors and partners who provided resources [that] allowed our eager participants to show up every day to learn."

The Marianas is now home to the largest fleet of underwater OpenROV research robots and some of the most qualified OpenROV operators in the world.

OpenROV is short for open-source remotely operated vehicle and is a low-cost robotic underwater drone built with the goal of making underwater exploration, discovery, and education affordable and available to the masses.

OpenROV is an open-source hardware project. By providing the list of the submarine parts and instructions on how to assemble them, the project aims to democratize underwater exploration.

Marine protected areas such as the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument create incentives for scientists to conduct research because they provide a baseline against areas that are unprotected.

The Friends of the Mariana Trench, in partnership with Northern Marianas Trades Institute, hosted the Marine Ecology via Remote Observation Workshop on April 14-22, led by Dr. Andrew Thaler and Dr. Stacy Baez.

During the first week of the workshop, eight facilitators learned how to build an underwater robot. These robots can be submerged in the ocean and contain a camera that can be used to observe the marine environment.

Representatives from NMTI, Northern Marianas College, the Public School System (through Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance), CNMI Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality, Okeanos Marianas, Underwater World Guam, and University of Guam Marine Lab were selected as facilitators.

After the facilitators were trained, they taught 18 students how to build and operate the machines. Students were recruited from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Participants built six underwater robots. These robots were donated to the community and will now be in use across the CNMI and Guam.

The Friends would like to thank OpenROV for providing robot building kits. Special thanks to NMTI for workshop space, staff, and transportation assistance. Thanks to Seatouch-Saipan for providing access to its facility in front of the Fiesta Resort & Spa, and the Fiesta Resort for their tremendous support. Okeanos Marianas provided transportation for field operations in the Saipan lagoon, and thanks to the crew who made the experience unforgettable for participants. Finally, thanks to the organizations, businesses, institutions of higher learning, and government agencies who provided facilitators to conduct the student workshop.

The workshop was made possible by a grant awarded to Thaler and Blackbeard Biologic through the NOAA Marine Educators Training Program. The Friends were selected to be the workshop's logistical coordinator and facilitated Thaler with community outreach and participant selection as well as engaging local and community partners. ***(PR)***

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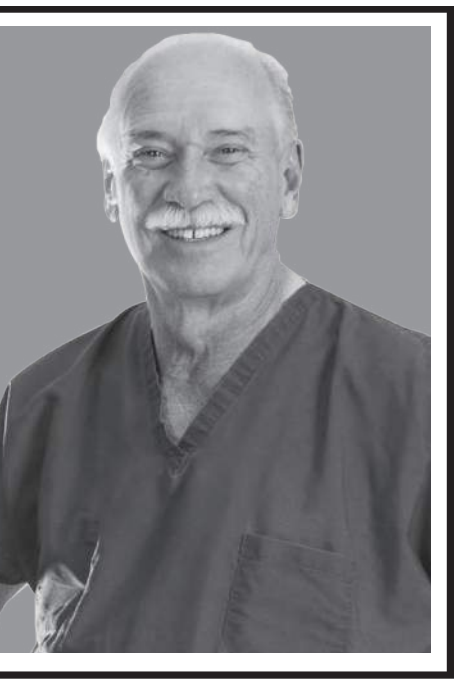

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GovGuam, JRM ink coordination council charter

ASAN, Guam—Gov. Eddie Calvo and Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, signed last April 12 a charter for the Civil-Military Coordination Council at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Hagåtña.

The charter outlines the scope, membership, structure, roles and responsibilities, and operating procedures for its participating members from the government of Guam and federal agencies.

"The function of this council is truly unique," Chatfield said. "Opportunities like this allow us to have an open and transparent dialogue about the pace and sequence of proposed military construction projects to ensure that these projects are mutually beneficial to the safety, security of the military and local communities and to promote the economic prosperity of the island of Guam."

During the meeting, council members discussed military construction projects, Guam Environmental Protection Agency permit reviews, and the partnership between the Department of Defense and the Guam Department of Labor regarding the H-2B visa approval process, which has recently resulted in several new H-2B visa approvals for military projects.

Calvo continues to raise the issue that construction projects outside of the military facilities, that are not necessarily directly associated to the military buildup in Guam, also are able to get the necessary skilled labor force.

"This is a milestone in the history of the military buildup here on Guam," Calvo said. "This charter we are signing…cements the One Guam approach, which benefits the entire island community. The biggest challenge in the buildup was the lack of skilled laborers to augment the local workforce and we're starting to see some positive movement in that regard. Projects that support economic growth, education and health are critical to the overall quality of life for the people of Guam—both civilian and military."

The governor noted that he looks forward to the next few weeks. Department of Labor anticipates USCIS will be responding to H2-B visa applications for non-military construction projects.

The charter fulfills the commitments made in the 2010 and 2015 Records of Decision for establishing final operational procedures of the council.

The event marked the fourth meeting of the council since its inception. ***(PR)***

Gov. Eddie Calvo and Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, together with other officials, applaud after signing last April 12 a charter for the Civil-Military Coordination Council at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Hagåtña.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Eddie Calvo signs the charter for the Civil-Military Coordination Council at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex in Hagåtña as Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, looks on last April 12.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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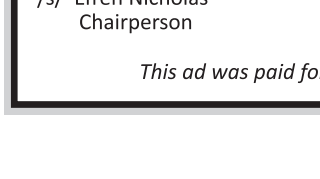

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UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 24, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of May 24, 2018
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 1, 2018
V. Action Items
VI. Reports
  a. Chairperson
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VII. Old Business
  a. Video Remote Interpreting and Remote Captioning
VIII. New Business
  a. CIRCLES Transition Meeting
  b. Sensitivity & Disability Awareness Presentation for CNMI Policymakers
  c. 2018 Disability Sports Fest
  d. Benefits Planning Training
IX. Miscellaneous
X. Next Meeting - July 2018
XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.
In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Plaintiff
-v-
JOSEPH M. DIAZ AND LEONINA S. DIAZ
Defendants
) CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0129

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 3, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 1724-5, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 798 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Check no. 2074/85, which was record with Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File no. 85-0909 on May 14, 1985, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 25, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 9th day of April, 2018:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Torres signs two Senate bills into law

On April 11, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the following bills into law:

■ Senate Bill 20-83, which empowers and defines the authority of Community Supervision officers and Compliance officers in treatment courts. Authored by Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), this bill is nowPublic Law 20-54.

■ Senate Bill 20-90, which permits Youth Congress sessions every two months. Authored by Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), this bill is now Public Law 20-55. ***(PR)***

UOG to launch Farrell's new book on May 16

Author Don Farrell combed through the National Archives to find an extensive collection of documents and images detailing the often overlooked, yet incredibly valuable role the island of Tinian played in the atomic bombing of Japan at the end of World War II.

From his research, Farrell has written *Tinian and the Bomb*, which features detailed accounts and a vast collection of images capturing this significant moment in world history.

The University of Guam Press will host a Guam launch and discussion of the book on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 5:30pm at the UOG College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences' Lecture Hall.

The launch will also feature remarks from UOG president Robert Underwood, who wrote the book's foreword.

The Pacific Historic Parks will also host Farrell on Friday, May 18, from 10am to noon at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, commonly known as the National Park Service Visitor Center, where he will provide a book signing and discussion.

Tinian and the Bomb will be available for sale in hardcover at $35 per book at both events. After the launch, the book will be made available at the UOG Triton Bookstore, the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center's bookstore, on the UOG Press website (www.uog.edu/uogpress), on the Amazon online store, and in various local bookstores in Guam and Saipan.

For more information, contact UOG Press managing editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero at (671)735-2154 orvictorialola@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard recruiting in the CNMI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Academy are currently looking to recruit high school students from the CNMI.

Since last Monday, a group of recruiters from the Coast Guard Academy and enlisted Coast Guards are making the rounds in the CNMI in hopes of sparking the interest of students to possibly pursue a career as a Coast Guardsman.

According to Christine Torres Igisomar, a recruiter from the Coast Guard Academy, people of the CNMI have proven to be some of the perfect Coast Guard recruits because individuals from the islands are strong-willed and were raised to respect the ocean.

"Pacific Islanders are well-suited for the Coast Guard. We have grown up in a remote part of the world and I believe that makes us very resilient and, when I look at people who have joined the Coast Guard, they've gone on to do at least 10 years, if not more, and complete a whole career…I think that has to do with the culture, the way we were brought up to respect the ocean…and in the Coast Guard, that is what we are asked to do," she said.

For students who think they cannot cut it, Igisomar said that that couldn't be less true. "We've done it and we were raised on the islands and we did just fine, so that should never discourage students," she said.

Freddy Hofschneider, another recruiter from the academy who was born and raised on Tinian, said that one of his most memorable experiences since leaving his home and joining the Coast Guard is the number of places he was able to visit as part of his job.

"Traveling around…when I was stationed [n] Guam I got to travel to around the islands [in Micronesia] …you get to travel to other places too…and I think that is the best part," he said

Angelo Pangelinan, an enlisted Coast Guard, said that the group will be on Saipan until Thursday afternoon and will fly over to Rota to continue their recruitment. The group already conducted a recruitment outreach on Tinian last Monday.

The group has been to Tinian High School, Grace Christian Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Mt. Carmel School, the Northern Marianas College, and more.

According to Mark Prijic, the group has sparked some interest in about 10 individuals as of Wednesday but expect to see more students apply as the school year nears its end.

Pangelinan said the group aims to recruit at least 500 students from the CNMI.

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Better Together

Torres: Govt employees deserve recognition

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fourth from left, joins Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente, right, and other department officials in honoring the DLNR's employees of the year, Jesse Deleon Guerrero, fifth from left, and Frances Marie G. Sablan, sixth from left, last Thursday at the DLNR grounds in Lower Base.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that government employees deserve to be honored daily for their hard work and dedication in serving the public and not only during Public Service Recognition Week.

The governor stressed this in a visit to the departments of Labor, Finance, and Community and Cultural Affairs last week where he led the recognition rites for each of their top employees.

"This is our way of thanking all the employees whose duties may be big or small for all of their hard work they've given in each of their departments. The sacrifices they've made deserve recognition every day," said Torres.

The Public Service Recognition Week was part of a revamped way to celebrate Labor Day.

"Last year, I also went to every department to thank all the employees for all their hard work and we're doing that again this year. This is basically a big thank you to all our hardworking employees for their years of service. We have numerous employees who have served their departments or divisions in 30 or more years."

At the DLNR, Secretary Anthony Benavente and Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny M. Pangelinan joined Torres in honoring their employee of the year, Jesse Deleon Guerrero and Frances Marie G. Sablan, last Thursday.

"We honor all our employees, not only those who were awarded but every single one under my department. Even though they did not get the employee of the year award, each one of them deserves recognition for their dedicated service," said Benavente.

He recognized all employees of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Land Registration, Division of Parks & Recreation, and Division of Agriculture.

Benavente said he could not perform his duties as DLNR head without his staff. "Thank you for keeping up with me. I know that I've been here for almost a year now but I will continue to serve them as they serve me under our department."

Company allegedly used security guards as construction workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A construction firm is suing a company for allegedly providing workers that are not construction workers at all but are security guards and other non-employees, delaying nine projects on Saipan.

H&H Small Project Construction is suing Five Star G General Construction for breach of contract, fraud for intentional misrepresentation, and violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

H&H wants the Superior Court to hold Five Star G liable to pay damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from Five Star G.

According to H&H, through its counsel Victorino DLG Torres, the company entered into a contract with Five Star G for construction services.

Under the contract, Torres said, H&H would provide unskilled workers and Five Star G would provide skilled workers.

Torres said there were five contract services in which Five Star G will provide manpower for the building construction and other related work.

Torres said that from 2016 to 2017, H&H had five projects—renovation/concrete roofing of a house in Kagman, renovation/concrete roofing of a house in Dandan, repair of 12 pavilions, construction of one-story commercial building in Garapan, and construction of a two-story house on Navy Hill.

Torres said Five Star G also provided construction manpower services to four other H&H projects—Saipan Southern High School, 10 apartment units in Garapan, two-story concrete house on Navy Hill, and a semi-concrete house in Dandan.

Torres said these nine projects were delayed because of Five Star G's breach.

Torres said Five Star G represented to H&H that it has the experience, skills, and knowledge necessary to perform construction services that are consistent with industry standard when in fact it did not have construction workers.

Torres said some of these workers were security guards and non-employees of Five Star G placed on the jobsite to make a quick earning and never vetted by Five Star G as qualified construction workers.

The lawyer said Five Star G failed to properly ensure that the construction services were consistent with industry standard, provided unskilled construction workers, failed to properly protect and store cement bags delivered to the jobsite, and have workers sleep on the jobsite.

D&Q sponsors a MINA bin

D&Q, a division of TanHoldings Corp., has become the newest sponsor of a recyclable bin located at PauPau Beach, north side, a popular beach and family barbecue site for the residents of Saipan.

Max Kretzers, resident manager of D&Q, stressed the importance and value of their company's participation in community programs, specifically Adopt-a-Bin.

"As residents of Saipan, we all have a responsibility for where we live and work, and we are proud to take on the responsibility of this site at PauPau Beach," he said. "We as a corporation, and as individuals, are committed to doing our part in keeping a clean and litter-free environment for all of us to enjoy. This is an excellent program that helps to keep advance that goal and keep our lagoon healthy and vibrant."

MINA's Adopt-a-Bin program has 20 bins located in strategic locations around the island, which serve as receptacles for recyclable items. Other picnic trash should be placed in trash barrels, also located at various beach parks around the island. In case there is no garbage bin, "what is carried in should be carried out."

MINA has two bins still in need of sponsorship: one at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe and the other at Marine Beach in Kagman. For more information about the program, call (670)233-7333(REEF), email minaoutreach@gmail.com, or leave a message on Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's Facebook page. ***(PR)***

Max Kretzers, D&Q resident manager; Nicole Reyes, sales & marketing coordinator, and Marilyn Marron, sales manager of D&Q, join Becky Furey, Mikki Kautz and Roberta Guerrero of MINA at D&Q's adopted bin at PauPau Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JUDICIARY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
18-JUDICIARY-03

INSTALATION OF SURVELLANCE CAMERAS
at the
GUMA HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE,
SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Submission Date: May 18, 2018, 3:00 P.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for the installation of thirty five (35) surveillance cameras to be installed at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **April 18, 2018** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to Jim.Stowell@justice.gov.mp.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **May 3rd at 9:00 a.m., local time** at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission–Law Library. The meeting is expected to take at least an hour in order to provide prospective proposal submitters the opportunity to acquire sufficient knowledge of the building and the coaxial cable runs from cameras to the control / recording room so as to be able to present a bid that completely anticipates the material and labor costs entailed in completing the job.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP18-JUDICIARY-03** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **May 18, 2018, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **May 30, 2019, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

The CNMI Judiciary the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Judiciary. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Judiciary and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director

MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **May 15, 2018**
Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Regular General Membership Meeting

When: Wednesday, May 16, 2018
Time: 8:30 am
Location: Herman's Modern Bakery Conference Room

AGENDA

I. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum
II. Review and Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and Adoption of Minutes
a. April 14, 2018 meeting
IV. Public Comments (5 Minutes per Commenter)
V. Director's Report
a. Update on Board Training
b. Update on Unified WIOA Partners MOU
VI. Executive Session
VII. Announcements
VIII. Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

Approved by:
/s/ Josephine DLG. Mesta
Chair, SWDB

Water interruption in Papago, San Vicente, Dandan

There is currently an emergency water service interruption in the Papago, San Vicente, and Dandan areas that is expected to be fixed by 7am this morning.

According to a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. notice, the cause of the water interruption is due to the failure and damage of the 12-inch water transmission mainline.

The location of the mainline break is on the southbound lane on Cha Cha Road in Kagman near the Kagman intersection.

As a result of the damaged waterline, water cannot be distributed to the Kagman booster station that supplies water to the Papago, San Vicente, and Dandan water tank.

CUC is currently making the necessary repairs and it is expected to complete repair work this morning, May 14. Customers should expect restoration of regular water service hours soon thereafter and are advised to conserve water due to limited water supply.

For the safety of CUC men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area or to take alternative routes as the southbound lane on Cha Cha Road of the Kagman intersection will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(CUC)***

SEPARATION OF POWERS

A William S. Reyes Elementary School student hefts Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's 10-lb stainless steel gavel and yells "Thor," drawing laughs from fellow students during the judge's discussion in the classroom last Friday. WSR invited Camacho to talk to fifth graders about separation of powers.

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

When employees don't get the racial-bias message, disaster looms for business

What is it about "shopping while black" that's so hard for some store employees to understand? In the past week, two troubling incidents involving African-Americans at local retail outlets should prompt employers to offer a refresher course on customer relations. It should be made crystal clear that it's not just morally wrong but catastrophic for business when people assume that skin color equates with potential criminality.

The moral argument should be compelling enough. It is simply racist for anyone to assume that black customers automatically merit extra scrutiny. But moral arguments don't always prevail. That's where the business argument comes in.

Whenever American consumers, whatever their race, see wrong-headed business practices, the potential for disaster is enormous. Consider the backflips that Starbucks' managers now must perform to reassure customers that the company won't tolerate racial bias.

Starbucks plans to close more than 8,000 stores on May 29 so its 175,000 employees can receive racial-bias education. All this because one employee in Philadelphia called police when two black men failed to comply when asked to make a purchase or leave. They had simply been waiting for a third person to arrive for a business meeting, presumably over coffee.

The Starbucks nightmare apparently didn't resonate with employees at Nordstrom Rack in Brentwood and at a local Schnucks supermarket, where black customers were humiliated for no apparent reason other than their skin color.

At Nordstrom, two high school seniors and a 19-year-old college freshman were shopping last Thursday when an employee began monitoring them and later called police, accusing them of shoplifting. The officers, to their credit, listened to the youths' version and determined that the accusation was bogus.

Nordstrom Rack's President Geevy Thomas flew to St. Louis and met Tuesday with the young men and their families to personally apologize.

At the Concord Village Schnucks, a Belleville man and his girlfriend tried to purchase a $1,100 money order to pay rent. An employee refused to let the man, Kellen Hill, purchase a money order using a debit card and his Florida-issued driver's license. His girlfriend arrived with cash in hand to pay it. The employee still refused, even while insisting, "We're not racial profiling." Most of the encounter was recorded on video, including Hill's repeated warnings to the employee that he was going to lose his job. The employee wouldn't budge. Sure enough, he was fired—and rightly so.

Schnucks chief executive Todd Schnuck apologized, saying he was "incredibly disappointed in the poor judgment that was used in handling this incident."

When top executives have to scramble to avert disaster, it's a clear indication that staffers far down the line didn't get the right message: Racial bias, implicit or explicit, is an offense worthy of a swift and unsympathetic boot out the door.

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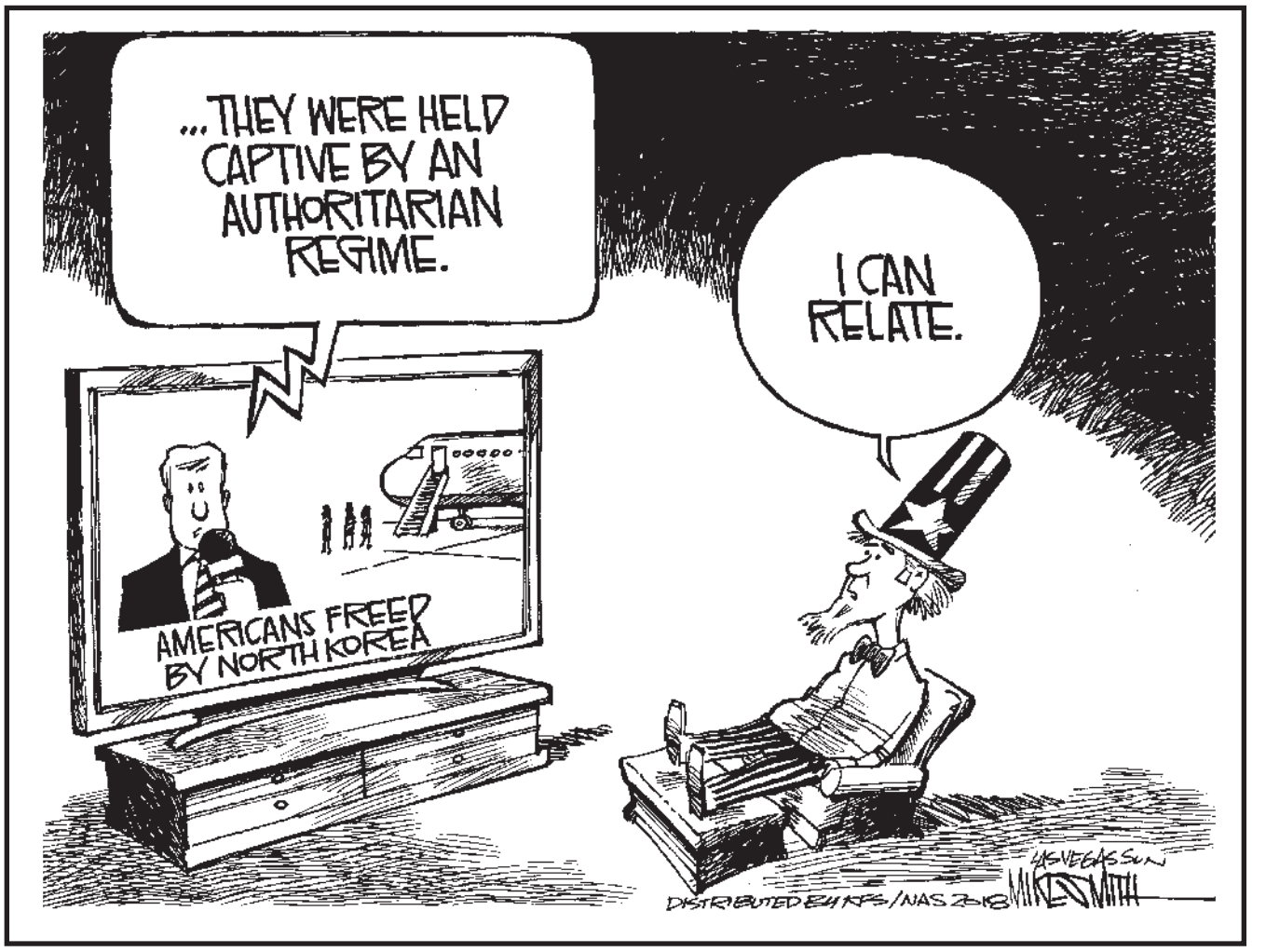
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A miracle

By RICHARD A. PIERCE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Richard A. Pierce is a former executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association and Saipan Chamber of Commerce and owner of Safety 1st Systems.

In my 38 years on this beautiful island of Saipan I have witnessed, critiqued, and been a part of a lifetime of events and situations. I am probably better known for finding fault and offering what I consider constructive criticism than commending and paying respect.

That said, I have watched and been a part of something that shows that very good, responsible, and well-intentioned minds can make a difference when effort, timing, cooperation, intelligence, honesty, willingness, and open-mindedness are put to work addressing issues in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Throughout my business and personal family life here on Saipan, there has always been an issue everyone knew existed, but either did not know how to address, or were afraid to confront those involved in the mess of it all. I am talking about drugs and substance abuse. Those who know me beyond my working life in the factories, working for four different governors and my business career, know that I have a history.

My history ended up with me taking a position with former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, where I built the CNMI Drug and Alcohol Workplace Policy in 1995. I fell short of my goal to totally address all aspects of this insidiousness, when I returned to try to clean up the mess in the factories in 1997. A majority of the owners would not follow my recommendations until their buyers insisted they would pull out if they did not. Coincidentally, the principles I recommended to be used cleaning up the factories are the same principles utilized in addressing drug and substance abuse.

Knowing that there was a proven method in addressing the life and family shattering that come with drug and alcohol abuse, I chose to educate by building a policy that would first clean our own house (government, and its employees), then get into the schools to educate and provide for access to treatment and support group settings for those willing to take on individual responsibility and accountability.

As if that were not enough, something needed to be done about interdiction and laws that were too rigid and criminally hard on those that suffered from the disease of substance abuse from drugs readily available since I arrived in 1980, and still readily available today.

An old friend, Judge David Wiseman, approached me about a drug court in the CNMI a few years ago. We discussed his plan, and whether it could work on Saipan. After congratulating the judge on his decision to pursue it, while mentioning the change in practice in the mainland where municipalities, counties and state courts had accepted the Minnesota Multi-Disciplinary Model as a long-term solution for not just abstinence, but crime with its roots in substance abuse, I stated that it could work if, and only if, there were support groups adopting the same 12-step model for life after drug court. Judge Wiseman asked if these groups existed on Saipan. I said yes, that they had existed to a limited extent since the early 1980's.

Kudos should go to Judge Wiseman for his wisdom, faith, and foresight, and all those involved in today's drug court system. I have witnessed the drug court system in action, and I believe Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio is absolutely the perfect choice within that system. She is tough where families could not perform, while compassionate by way of understanding the culture, and its limitations and virtues. I congratulate her.

Little did I know that the very system they helped establish would cause a snowballing effect, where support groups necessary to long-term sobriety have sprung up all over Saipan. Literally, there is a growth of recovery groups, an increasing acceptance within the community that drug and alcohol problems can be addressed, and that all those crimes committed as a result of addiction within our very community, can be addressed through an effort to treat, not jail, the offenders.

Miraculous, as well, and perhaps more so, is the treatment center created by the Office of the Governor. It provides a professionalism between the drug court and the recovery groups necessary to any chance at sustainable long-term abstinence and the endless crime associated with drug abuse. The treatment center, and the known community service centers meeting with those in recovery, are all the better because the drug court has found a way to get addicts into a model that works. I congratulate Gov. Torres for providing the vital link that reclaims lives within the community for the community.

My hat is off to Judge Wiseman, Judge Kim-Tenorio, Gov. Torres, the clinicians, administrators and employees at the court and the treatment center, professionals like my friend Cris Sablan and others, those old-timers offering their help in the groups, and all those involved within this system that now exists on the island I have called home for 38 years.

They are all on the same page. Simply a miracle. I attest.

A look back

Kindly reprint the letter below written by the late justice Ramon Villagomez back in 1976. As you can see, Justice Villlagomez is a true Northern Marianas descent visionary. I have permission to request reprinting of this letter by Justice Villagomez's son, Angelo Villagomez. Readers can also visit Hafa Gachong: Letters to the Commonwealth to view more of justice Villagomez's letters.

Thank you and best regards

Diego C. Blanco

US Senate approves Covenant

By RAMON VILLAGOMEZ
FEB. 27, 1976

This is a time to rejoice and a time to celebrate. It is a time to laugh and a time to cry. Congratulations to the people of the Marianas for acquiring what they were made to believe they wanted and congratulations to the United States of America for successfully acquiring a new territory; a small territory [that] will support and strengthen its military power and influence in the Pacific world and the Far East. For the people of the Marianas, let us extend a warm congratulation for the many things [that] they can now be proud of.

They can be proud that two-thirds of Tinian, part of Saipan and the whole island north of Saipan now belong to the U.S. military. These lands will be reserved for contingent U.S. military installations and activities. Lord, pray for us.

The people of the Marianas can be proud that they have become a minority out of 220 million people rather than a minority out of 100,000 people.

Similarly, they can be proud for becoming second-class citizens under a strange flag rather than noble citizens under their previous native flag.

I am sure that they cherish more the concept of being inferior to the "mainlanders" than superior to the "district people." It is common knowledge that the people of the Marianas believe themselves to be superior to the people from other districts of Micronesia and inferior to Americans.

Furthermore, the people of the Marianas can be proud that they are now not represented in their national legislature (U.S. Congress) as they were in the Congress of Micronesia. Whereas, Saipan was the capital of Micronesia, now it is a military stop-over; way out in the Pacific Ocean and only a handful of people ever get to see their great capital, the District of Columbia.

Whereas, the people of the Marianas had priority to any employment before becoming a commonwealth of the U.S., now they do not. Any qualified U.S. citizen is equally entitled to any job in the Marianas as the citizens thereof. The people of the Marianas can be proud of that. It means that many Marianas citizens will get skinned alive when competing for jobs.

However, the people of the Marianas can obviously see something in the commonwealth status [that] is worth more than anything else. They can see money ($). Money has to be the most important and powerful thing for them. It is more important than brotherhood or sisterhood or family relationship. It is more important than love or religion. It is money [that] is breaking up homes and family ties on our small islands. It is greed for money [that] is turning our people cold and bitter. It is greed for money [that] has caused our people to forget who they are, what their identity is, and to beg for commonwealth status. That they can be proud of and be congratulated for.

Nevertheless, it is money [that] our people have been praying for, and it is money [that] they are about to receive. Thanks to Uncle Sam. It is money [that] he has plenty of, and it is money with which he has purchased us. Congratulations!

A Torturous Trilogy of Sad Sonnet Syllogisms

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tweets are Not to Blame

(Inspired by William Shakespeare's sonnet 70)

That tweets are not to blame is not your biggest problem
narcissists are often the target of ridicule
they love themselves and people laugh at them
since way back when they were in high school
when you love yourself you become a target of others
mockery proves to you how popular you are
envy eats up your rivals sisters and brothers
in denial you maintain you are a quality star
you refuse to grow old and color your hair
you suck in your gut and cover your bald spot
you enjoy toilet fixtures of gold and imperial flair
you get incensed at all the funny names you are called
your genius is disguised by being inarticulate and ignorant
the love from your base makes you always kiss up to it.

Sarcasm? Or Just a Silly Spasm

in which 45 repeats as much as he tweets

Let me repeat, he did, he did, and so did she
It's the way he got out, the way he got out
ISIS wants to give her MVP they want to MVP
you hear me you hear me do I have to shout
it is rigged believe me believe me I heard
I never meant that I never meant that at all
your jumping on my every word every word
we'll see in the fall we'll all see in the fall
nobody's listening they just don't get it
many people said I heard many others get it
of course I was just being sarcastic sarcastic
I called National Enquirer and had them vet it
it was sarcasm sarcasm just a silly senior spasm
another example of my word use abuse chasm.

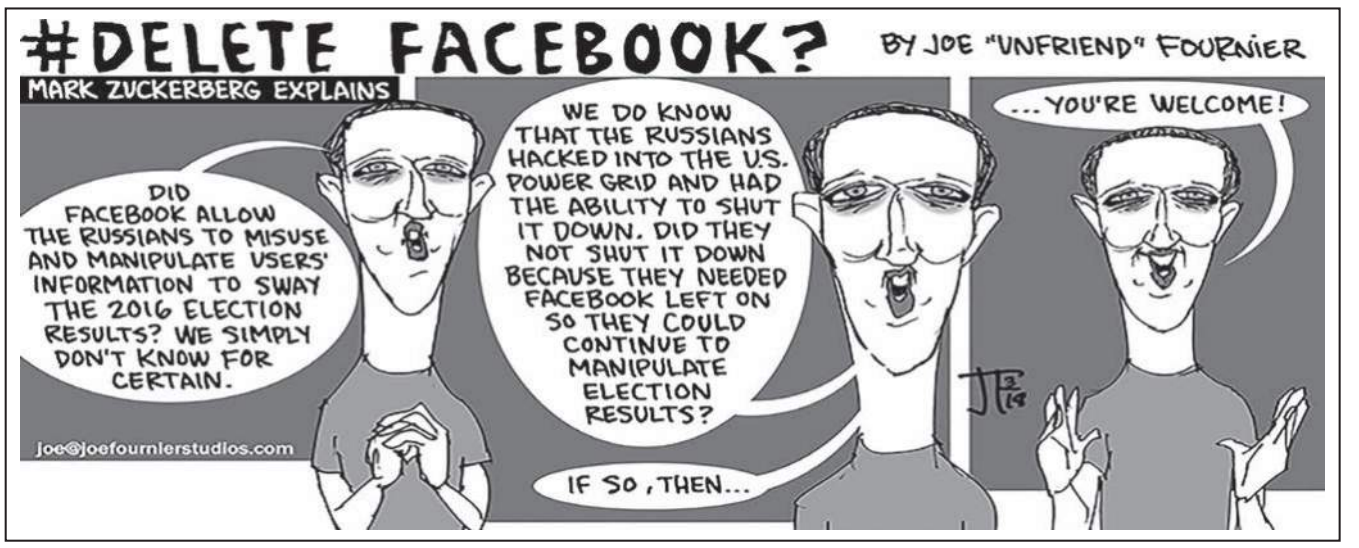
Sour and Sweet Tweets and Repeats

It came out of him many times in speeches and tweets
he said it so often it sounded like a chant or mantra
everyone became familiar with his constant repeats
'believe me''no collusion no collusion''believe me'.
When he was laughed at and belittled in media reports
he called them 'lying media' and 'enemy of the people'
he had a ready response with his prompt insulting retorts
'believe me' 'no collusion no collusion' 'believe me'.
When he experienced international scorn and rejection
withdrew support for agreements after years of negotiation
he answered all reports with one of his repeat interjections
'believe me' 'the worst deal ever in history' 'believe me'
So he departs from the podium and charms the nation's hearts
repeating 'only I can do it' 'stable genius' and 'I'm smart'.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.


#DELETE FACEBOOK?
BY JOE "UNFRIEND" FOURNIER
MARK ZUCKERBERG EXPLAINS
DID FACEBOOK ALLOW THE RUSSIANS TO MISUSE AND MANIPULATE USERS' INFORMATION TO SWAY THE 2016 ELECTION RESULTS? WE SIMPLY DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN.
WE DO KNOW THAT THE RUSSIANS HACKED INTO THE U.S. POWER GRID AND HAD THE ABILITY TO SHUT IT DOWN. DID THEY NOT SHUT IT DOWN BECAUSE THEY NEEDED FACEBOOK LEFT ON SO THEY COULD CONTINUE TO MANIPULATE ELECTION RESULTS?
IF SO, THEN...
...YOU'RE WELCOME!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Improved status

Under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program, or CW program, contract workers from foreign countries are hired to work for businesses. The contract worker program has been going on for more than 10 years. Because of this program, foreign people moved to the CNMI to gain financial stability; many have already started families and built a life on our islands. In addition, many have lived here for more than 20 years. Today, the issue is that the CNMI contract worker program is cutting back on 9,000 workers after the initial end year of 2019. This means that most of these workers who have been in the CNMI for so long will be forced to go back to their country and basically restart their lives. Since foreign workers make up the majority of the workforce in the CNMI, removing the program will create a shortage of workers and negatively impact our economy.

To improve the situation, I suggest that the government give "CNMI-only resident" status to long-term workers—contract workers who have been employed in the CNMI for 10 or more years. This way, if the CW program does come to an end, the workers who have long been committed to working on the island can stay without having to worry about the prospect of having to return to their homeland. In addition, a shortage of workers in the CNMI would not occur because the current contract workers would still be on island to continue work even after the year 2019.

In 2016, talks of "improving the status of long-term workers" were on the rise. But it slowly died out. However, now that the CW program has officially been extended but with a shortened cap, discussion must arise once again. Granting improved status will properly transition the workforce in the CNMI from largely foreign workers to CNMI residents and citizens. By giving improved status, the CNMI can slowly close the CW program while retaining the same amount of workers.

Dissenters may argue that giving foreign workers resident status is just giving them the opportunity to leave the CNMI for the mainland. However, this is a hasty conclusion; it is too early to be saying such a thing. Since there is no current legislation on improving the status of foreign workers, there is still a lot of legroom to define what "CNMI-only" status for foreign workers is. Legislation can be made to keep the workers in the CNMI and only in the CNMI. It is only up to the legislators to define the future.

Another argument may be that foreign workers will only take up more jobs in the CNMI. As was stated before, foreign workers and their families already make up much of the population. The truth is that the indigenous population is slowly growing smaller while the need for workers is ongoing. Giving improved status to foreign workers will not take away jobs from CNMI residents and citizens.

In the end, the end of the contract worker program will affect many aspects of our island lives. We must act not only to ensure that our islands retain our current financial status but also to keep families together. We must give foreign workers improved status.

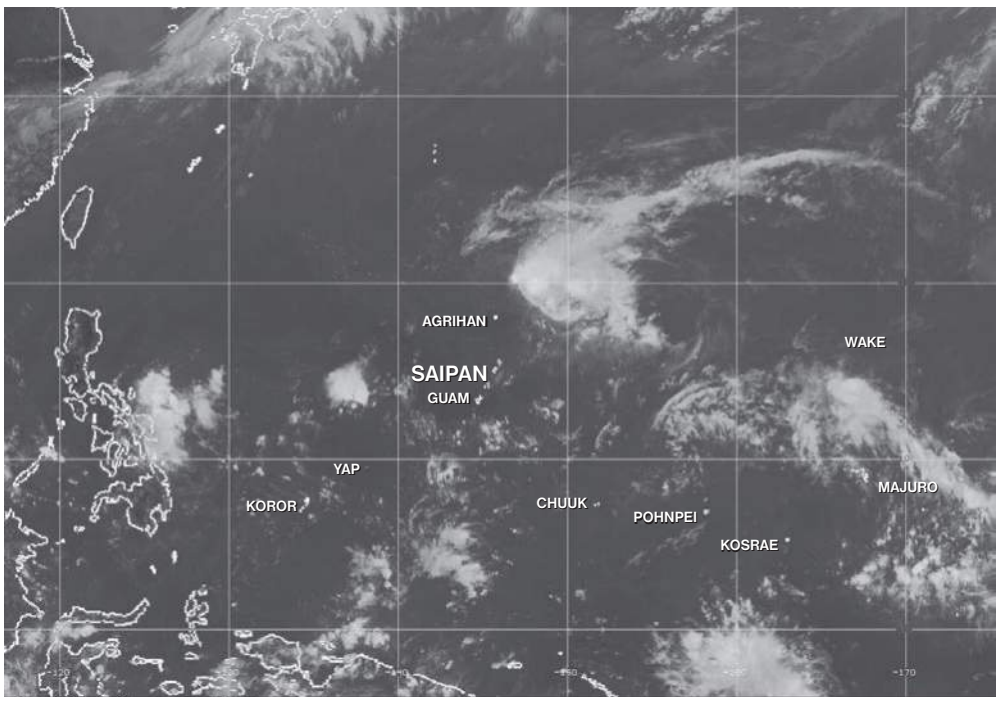
Natalie Montano
Koblerville, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:46 AM, SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A band of convergence stretching south from Tropical Storm 04W brings a slight chance of thunderstorms to the Marianas through tonight. Otherwise, a dry pattern is expected across the region through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	70° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	99° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 54°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	80° / 75°
New York	Cloudy	68° / 57°
Osaka	Sunny	81° / 64°
Paris	Showers	63° / 46°
Busan	Sunny	70° / 63°
Rome	Showers	68° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	95° / 68°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Tokyo	Sunny	79° / 63°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	80° / 64°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.65
6:20 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.99
1:10 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.01
7:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:43 AM	5:28 PM	-
Tuesday	5:30 AM	6:25 PM	-
Wednesday	6:20 AM	7:26 PM	-
Thursday	7:15 AM	8:28 PM	-
Friday	8:13 AM	9:31 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

'Japan achieved success in Micronesia unlike any other'

TOKYO—In the years before World War II, the Micronesian islands under Japanese rule were self-supporting, a level of economic independence never reached during the U.S. colonial period after the war or since independence in the mid-1980s, noted Pacific historian Francis X. Hezel, SJ, told a packed lecture hall at Sophia University.

Speaking to an audience of more than 130—including Palau Ambassador Francis Matsutaro, Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador John Fritz, and Marshall Islands Ambassador Tom Kijiner—Hezel said sugar cane plantations on Saipan, Tinian and Rota brought in more than 6 million yen, more than all other regional industries combined. Tuna fishing, which dried the fish and turned it into tuna shavings or *katsuobushi* at factories on Chuuk, Pohnpei, Palau and Saipan, produced revenue of over 5 million yen annually, Hezel said.

"The sugar industry was bound to have an enormous impact on these islands. For instance, the Japanese and Okinawan population in the Northern Marianas exploded, from well under 2,000 in 1920 to more than 40,000 by 1937," Hezel noted.

Hezel's lecture was titled, "Micronesia and Japan: The Islands That The Japanese Forgot." The Jesuit priest, who began serving in the Micronesian region in 1963, was invited to speak in Tokyo by Ambassador Peter Y. Sato, president of the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, a private foundation that seeks to strengthen Japan's ties with nations of Oceania and the Caribbean, and chancellor T. Sakuma, SJ, and president Yoshiaki Terumichi of Sophia University, the historic Jesuit school. The lecture was also part of a yearlong series of events marking 30 years of diplomatic ties between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan by the FSM Embassy in Tokyo.

Noted Pacific historian Francis X. Hezel, SJ, delivers a lecture at a packed hall at Sophia University.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, Japanese naval forces steamed from island to island in the Micronesia region to oust German colonists. The Paris Peace Conference in 1919 awarded the Micronesian islands to Japan as part of the newly formed League of Nations.

Hezel said that under Japanese rule, Micronesians made gains in public education and religion. Japanese authorities established the first rudimentary public school system, and offered three years of basic education for all islanders who lived within walking distance of one of the 24 public schools built across the region.

And Hezel noted that Japan encouraged Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries to establish missions in the Japanese Mandated Islands. For instance, Adm. Shinjiro Yamamoto, who was a Catholic, appealed to the Pope for priests and brothers to be sent to Micronesia.

"Soon Spanish Jesuits were sent to open a new mission [on] the islands. Four pastors from the Japanese Congregational Church also arrived to begin work in Chuuk and Pohnpei. German Liebenzell missionaries were invited to resume their work and set up new stations in the west. And so non-Christian Japan brought in missionaries to assist it in its 'civilizing' mission," Hezel said.

The Jesuit priest, who has written a number of histories on the Micronesian region, also spoke about the Japanese who moved to the islands to set up trading companies. The first Japanese traders arrived in 1890 in Chuuk.

"They included Koben Mori, son of a *samurai*, and Mogahira Shirai, who had fought in the wars of the Meiji restoration," said Hezel. Mori is the great- grandfather of Emanuel "Manny" Mori of Chuuk, who served two terms as president of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Hezel said islanders missed the Japanese era in the post-war years.

"When I first came in 1963, Micronesians expressed their fondness for food (ramen, sushi, etc.) and their nostalgia for the 'old days' of their Japanese schooling (including the strict discipline). On my first visit to Palau, I heard popular songs with Japanese-like melodies. Japanese names seemed to be everywhere," Hezel recalled.

He said the Japanese era achieved levels of success that were never matched by the U.S. during its post-war administration of Micronesia, or during the current independence era in the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia, as well as the U.S. Northern Marianas Islands.

Hezel said during the Japanese period, islanders were introduced to the modern world, just as Japan itself had been a half-century earlier during the Meiji restoration. Not just dress styles and songs, and rise of the towns, but through an education system.

Industry rose to new heights, with diversified exports. For one short period at least, the islands were able to pay their way in a global economy.

Island culture had been so transformed by its exposure to Japanese influence that the signs of this remain to the present.

Hezel noted that the Micronesian islands also affected a generation of Japanese who worked in the region.

"The islands had made their mark on the Japanese and Okinawans who had lived and worked there during the 1920s and 1930s," Hezel said. "*Guntos* were formed, regular meetings were held, and yearly books appeared with published accounts and photos of the old days. Pacific Island studies programs were established, and *The Journal of the Pacific Society* was published for years afterwards.

"Early tourism build up in the islands was Japanese, resulting from the historical and cultural ties. Saipan and Palau were the principal destinations– because they were closer to Japan, not just in geographical distance but culturally as well. The islands still bore the marks of Japanese presence," Hezel said.

But that was then, Hezel added. He challenged the Sophia University audience asking, "What will be the next phase of the Japanese-Micronesian relationship that is now more than a century old?" ***(PR)***

日本・ミクロネシア連邦外交関係樹立30周年記念
Celebrating 30 Years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Micronesia
Francis X. Hezel神父 講演会
Lecture Presented by Fr. Francis X. Hezel, SJ
Micronesia and Japar
– The Islands that the Japanese Forgot –
Jointly hosted by : Sophia University・APIC
APIC
上智大学

From left to right, Ambassador Shoji Sato, Association for Promotion of International Cooperation; Ambassador John Fritz, Federated States of Micronesia; Ambassador Francis Matsutaro, Palau; Francis X. Hezel, SJ; Ambassador Tom Kijiner, Marshall Islands; Yoshito Honda, councilor, APIC board of trustees; Ambassador Peter Y. Sato, APIC.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Longanecker appointed interim WICHE president

MISSOULA—The commissioners of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education unanimously appointed Dr. David A. Longanecker interim president of the primary interstate higher education agency serving 16 states and territories, encompassing a Western U.S. population of 80 million, at its biannual governing meeting Tuesday in Missoula.

Longanecker will succeed Joseph A. Garcia, who is leaving WICHE to become president of the Colorado Community College System early this summer.

Longanecker's appointment is effective June 1.

The interim appointment ensures not only expertise at the helm of WICHE, but also stability.

Longanecker was president for WICHE from 1999 through 2016, and is intimately familiar with WICHE's programs.

"We won't miss a beat, and that's one of our main priorities in this transition," said Clayton Christian, Montana commissioner of higher education and chair of the WICHE commission. "This enables Joe Garcia, who has been an exemplary ambassador for WICHE during his two years as president, to transition to his new role and enable our staff to continue their efforts in a seamless way."

Prior to his 17-year tenure at WICHE, Longanecker was assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, and has been the chief higher education executive officer in the states of Colorado and Minnesota.

Longanecker

Longanecker has served on numerous higher education boards and commissions—including for the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements, which was founded at WICHE under his tenure and is now based adjacent to WICHE's Boulder, Colorado offices.

The commission is embarking on a search process for a long-term president who will lead WICHE's 65-member staff and strategic direction.

Since departing WICHE, Longanecker returned to higher education as a student, securing a commercial driver's license from Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado—many decades after completing his Ed.D. from Stanford University, his M.A. from The George Washington University, and his B.A. from Washington State University—and pursuing his long-term personal ambition to be a truck driver.

"I am both honored and appreciative of the faith the commission is placing on me in drawing me back into the WICHE fold as the interim president. I thoroughly enjoyed my years with WICHE prior to retirement two years ago, and I'm happy to be back in this interim role. ***(PR)***

Paulis is *man'amko* ground golf champ

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kingech Paulis was named champion of the 2018 *Man'amko* Ground Golf Tournament Wednesday last week at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

He was proclaimed the 2018 ground golf winner after five teams completed one game and making two holes-in-one out of four in just one game.

In second place was Nick Klewei and completing the top three was Roger Hernandez.

The first-place winner was awarded $30, the second-place winner was awarded $20, and the third-place winner was awarded $10.

The E-Land Group, parent company of Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, hosts the *Man'amko* Ground Golf Tournament every year during *Mes Man'amko* (Older Americans Month).

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Kingech Paulis makes the winning putt last Wednesday during the annual *Man'amko* Ground Golf Tournament.

According to Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, COP has hosted the tournament for nearly four years and he has witnessed every year the sheer joy the tournament brings to the *man'amko*.

"We truly appreciate, on behalf of the *man'amko*, everyone at the Department of Community and Cultural Affais, we appreciate their kind generosity and we hope they continue to provide their accommodation and services," he said.

According to E-Land Group Corporate Social Responsibility's Lindsay Anh, the event is a way for E-Land to give back to the community that has accommodated them for years.

The E-Land Group, a Korean corporation, shares similar values with the CNMI and one of those values is the importance of the community's elderly. Anh said the *man'amko* are the backbone of the community because many of them kick-started and even pioneered the development of the CNMI and E-Land believes that that should not be overlooked.

Aside from hosting the ground golf tournament, COP also hosted a lunch buffet for the *man'amko* that was not only appetizing but healthy too.

According to Coral Ocean Point's operation manager Kalvin Park, it has already become a tradition for COP to host the *man'amko* once a year and it is a tradition he intends to sustain.

Upcoming voter registration drives

The Commonwealth Election Commission will conduct a voter registration drive at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tomorrow, May 15, from 2pm to 4:30pm.

A voter registration drive will also be done at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Room on Friday, May 25, from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

There will also be a voter registration drive at the Tinian Junior/Senior High School on Thursday and Friday, May 17-18, from 9am to 4pm.

Those who would like to register must bring a copy of their birth certificate certified by the court, a current valid U.S. passport, or naturalization documents to show proof of one's citizenship.

A person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 6, 2018, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

Previously registered voters who have failed to vote in the 2014 and 2016 general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in the 2018 regular general election.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the Commission's office at (670) 664-VOTE (8683) or email at administrative@votecnmi.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Reunion meeting for MHS Class of '88

All graduates of MHS Class of '88 will be having their final meeting today, May 14, 2018, to discuss their 30th year class reunion for June 29, 2018. Meeting location will be at Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cepeda's residence in As Lito at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Eleanor Cepeda through MHS Class of 88 WhatsApp group. ***(PR)***

Military training at Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on May 14-16, from 9am to 10pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use. W-517 supports surface and aerial-gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. ***(PR)***

CAO community report meetings set

The Carolinian Affairs Office is holding a community report meeting on May 16 at the Kagman Youth Center. The CAO is asking members of the Refaluwasch community to attend the meeting. Contact the CAO at (670)234-6385 with any questions or concerns about the meetings. ***(PR)***

Meeting for farmers/producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting on May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

PASSING OF THE TORCH NMC

Congratulations to the senior students of Northern Marianas College's School of Education, who recently marked a major milestone of their educational journey in the SOE "Passing of the Torch" ceremony. The SOE seniors, who will be graduating with their bachelor degrees on May 19, 2018, also passed on guidance and advice to the incoming SOE cohort of 2019. The Passing of the Torch Ceremony was also attended by NMC leaders, including, from left, seated: SOE chair Charlotte Cepeda, NMC interim vice president Frankie Eliptico, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, NMC interim vice president Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, NMC interim dean Amanda Angel-Diaz, and SOE instructor Rosaline Cepeda.

Business

Tesla with Autopilot slams into truck stopped at red light

SOUTH JORDAN, Utah (AP)—A Tesla sedan with a semi-autonomous Autopilot feature has rear-ended a fire department truck at 60 mph (97 kph) apparently without braking before impact, but police say it's unknown if the Autopilot feature was engaged.

The cause of the Friday evening crash, involving a Tesla Model S and a fire department mechanic truck stopped at a red light, was under investigation, said police in South Jordan, a suburb of Salt Lake City.

The crash, in which the Tesla driver was injured, comes as federal safety agencies investigate the performance of Tesla's semi-autonomous driving system.

The Tesla's air bags were activated in the crash, South Jordan police Sgt. Samuel Winkler said Saturday. The Tesla's driver suffered a broken right ankle, and the driver of the Unified Fire Authority mechanic truck didn't require treatment, Winkler said.

There was no indication the Tesla's driver was under the influence of any substance, and information on what the driver may have told investigators about the circumstances of the crash likely wouldn't be available before Monday, Winkler said by telephone.

There was light rain falling and roads were wet when the crash occurred, police said in a statement.

"Witnesses indicated the Tesla Model S did not brake prior to impact," the statement said.

Tesla's Autopilot system uses cameras, radar and computers to keep speed, change lanes and automatically stop vehicles. The company, which is based in Palo Alto, California, and has a huge battery factory in the Reno, Nevada, area, tells drivers the system requires them to keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel so they can take control to avoid accidents.

Police said they had been in contact with the National Transportation Safety Board about the crash. NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said he didn't know whether the agency would get involved with the crash.

Tesla did not immediately respond to inquiries from The Associated Press.

The NTSB and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are investigating at least two other crashes involving Tesla vehicles. In March, a Tesla Model X SUV crashed on a California highway, killing the driver, and investigators are looking into the performance of the semi-autonomous driving system in that crash.

AP
In this Friday, May 11, 2018, photo released by the South Jordan Police Department shows a traffic collision involving a Tesla Model S sedan with a Fire Department mechanic truck stopped at a red light in South Jordan, Utah.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trump: Congress should get spending bills done before break

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is urging the Senate to get its work done on funding before the August break, "or NOT GO HOME." The president tweeted Saturday that "Wall and Border Security should be included." He also said that he is "waiting for approval of almost 300 nominations, worst in history." Trump blamed Democrats for "doing everything possible to obstruct." The president's push for speedy action on spending measures and nominations, followed a recent letter from a group of Senate Republicans pressing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to cancel the August recess later this year. That effort was led by Sen. David Perdue of Georgia. The Senate Republicans said that spending more time on their pending work is particularly critical when Congress is facing what they call "historic obstruction" by Democrats.

Seattle 'head tax' proposal advances to vote Monday

SEATTLE (AP)—A proposal to tax large businesses in Seattle to pay for housing and homeless services has cleared a council committee and heads to the council for a vote Monday. The proposal remained largely unchanged Friday after the council rejected several amendments that would have lowered the tax rate or made other major changes. One amendment backed by Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan would have cut the tax rate in half, to roughly $250 per full-time worker a year. But the council narrowly rejected that. Under the proposal that advanced out of committee, nearly 600 large employers making at least $20 million in revenue would pay about $500 a year per worker. The tax would raise about $75 million annually. Durkan said Friday she doesn't support that version but remained hopeful the council would pass a bill she can sign. Some bill sponsors said Friday that the city is facing an affordable housing crisis and they want to work to find a way forward.

New York City loft-dweller fined $185K for tourist rentals

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City artist is facing eviction and a $185,000 fine after renting out her rent-regulated loft to tourists on Airbnb. The New York Post reports a judge ruled this week that a landlord could evict Eileen Hickey. Landlord Robert Moskowitz says Hickey's rentals made $4,500 a month, triple what she pays. Moskowitz says Hickey violated state laws against short-term renting and profiting off rent-stabilized apartments. Hickey says the Airbnb rentals spanned 85 nights over 10 months a few years ago. She says she needed money for her then-husband's medical bills and believed the rentals were legal. The 72-year-old also owns a Manhattan condo. She says she uses it as an office. San Francisco-based Airbnb said Friday it encourages tenants to consult their landlords before renting out their homes.

Ford could restart truck assembly at 2 plants on May 18

DETROIT (AP)—Ford could restart production of F-Series pickups as soon as May 18 at two factories that stopped making trucks due to a fire at a parts supplier plant. A spokeswoman said Friday that Ford has notified employees they could return to work in a week in Dearborn, Michigan, and Kansas City, Missouri. Super Duty pickup assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, remains idle but workers will keep producing big SUVs. Earlier this week Ford temporarily laid off 7,600 workers after a May 2 fire at Meridian Magnesium Products in Michigan. Ford says it is working with Meridian and others to get parts. Also Friday, Mercedes said it ran out of Meridian parts at its SUV plant near Tuscaloosa, Alabama. As a result, production was canceled Thursday and Friday. No layoffs are expected. Employees will work next week on a limited schedule.

Portrait of a casino: Back in the black after 40 years

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—When Resorts became the first casino in the United States to open outside Nevada, gamblers overwhelmed it. Cars streamed into Atlantic City on May 26, 1978, and throngs waited in line for blocks on the famous Boardwalk.

People bought tickets for buffets they had no intention of eating, just to sneak inside the casino earlier than the rest. Men relieved themselves into plastic coin cups to avoid losing their spot at the tables. And cash—more than anyone had ever seen and more than management could imagine—flooded into the counting room, taking an entire day to count.

Forty years later, Resorts is a microcosm of the forces that boosted and buffeted the seaside gambling resort: the rapid rise to fabulous riches, the slowdown and struggle as more competitors emerged, and the recovery in a slimmed-down market.

"We were the first one here, and we're going to keep doing what we do best," said Resorts president Mark Giannantonio.

The casino plans to re-create the ceremonial first toss of the dice that came after then-Gov. Brendan Byrne confessed that his father taught him never to bet on anything other than Notre Dame and the New York Yankees.

But as Atlantic City grew, Resorts' market share shrank. As one of the smaller casinos in town, with 942 hotel rooms, it suddenly found itself staring down newcomers with rooms of 2,000 or more.

And when casinos started proliferating in nearby Pennsylvania and New York, Resorts came within hours of handing the keys over to lenders and walking away in Dec. 2009.

Veteran casino executive Dennis Gomes, known for wacky promotions including customers competing against a chicken at tic-tac-toe, bought the casino but died soon afterward. His investment partner, Morris Bailey, kept Resorts afloat by writing checks each month, even as the casino lost money.

A turning point came when Resorts inked a deal to have the Mohegan tribe assume day-to-day management and to affiliate it with other tribal-owned casinos in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. A deal with Jimmy Buffett brought the Margaritaville brand to Resorts, and by 2014, it was back in the black, helped by $110 million of capital investments.

It has succeeded as one of seven casinos in a market that just four years ago had 12. But two of the shuttered casinos are reopening this year.

Some see the opening of the Hard Rock casino next door, in what used to be the Trump Taj Mahal, as a potential boon to Resorts.

"If the place next to Resorts is a home run, there will be overflow," said analyst Lawrence Klatzkin with Rice, Voelker LLC in New York. "Hard Rock could be the best thing that happens to Resorts. There could be good symbiosis there."

Resorts has found its niche, much as downtown Las Vegas casinos have by not trying to match their larger competitors on the Strip, said David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

"Downtown casinos aren't competing by trying to build their own Bellagio lake; they are competing by offering better value and better gaming conditions," he said. "If Resorts can do that, it has a good future ahead of it."

Giannantonio predicts Resorts will have its best summer in a decade or more this year.

"I think we will be around 40 years from now," he said. "Matter of fact, I'd bet on it."

Nation

Hawaii volcano raises concerns of eruptions along West Coast

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The eruption of a Hawaii volcano in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" has experts warily eyeing volcanic peaks on America's West Coast that are also part of the geologically active region.

The West Coast is home to an 800-mile (1,300-kilometer) chain of 13 volcanoes, from Washington state's Mount Baker to California's Lassen Peak. They include Mount St. Helens, whose spectacular 1980 eruption in the Pacific Northwest killed dozens of people and sent volcanic ash across the country, and massive Mount Rainier, which towers above the Seattle metro area.

"There's lots of anxiety out there," said Liz Westby, geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Washington, in the shadow of Mount St. Helens. "They see destruction, and people get nervous."

Kilauea, on Hawaii's Big Island, is threatening to blow its top in coming days or weeks after sputtering lava for a week, forcing about 2,000 people to evacuate, destroying two dozen homes and threatening a geothermal plant. Experts fear the volcano could hurl ash and boulders the size of refrigerators miles into the air.

Here are some key things to know:

WHAT IS THE RING OF FIRE?

Roughly 450 volcanoes make up this horseshoe-shaped belt with Kilauea situated in the middle. The belt follows the coasts of South America, North America, eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It's known for frequent volcanic and seismic activity caused by the colliding of crustal plates.

AP
Visitors take pictures as Kilauea's summit crater glows red in Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii, Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

America's most dangerous volcanoes are all part of the Ring of Fire, and most are on the West Coast, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Besides Kilauea, they include: Mount St. Helens and Mount Rainier in Washington; Mount Hood and South Sister in Oregon; and Mount Shasta and Lassen Volcanic Center in California.

Images of lava flowing from the ground and homes going up in flames in Hawaii have stoked unease among residents elsewhere along the Ring of Fire. But experts say an eruption on one section of the arc doesn't necessarily signal danger in other parts.

"These are isolated systems," Westby said.

WHEN WILL THE WEST COAST VOLCANOES ERUPT?

No eruption seems imminent, experts say.

The Cascades Volcano Observatory monitors volcanoes in the Pacific Northwest and posts weekly status reports. All currently register "normal."

But the situation can change fast.

"All our mountains are considered active and, geologically speaking, things seem to happen in the Northwest about every 100 years," said John Ufford, preparedness manager for the Washington Emergency Management Division. "It's an inexact timeline."

Some geologists believe Mount St. Helens is the most likely to erupt.

But six other Cascade volcanoes have been active in the past 300 years, including steam eruptions at Mount Rainier and Glacier Peak and a 1915 blast at Lassen Peak that destroyed nearby ranches.

WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE COULD THEY DO?

The Big Island scenes of rivers of lava snaking through neighborhoods and sprouting fountains are unlikely in the Pacific Northwest.

"Lava is not the hazard, per se, like in Hawaii," said Ian Lange, a retired University of Montana geology professor. Cascade volcanos produce a thicker, more viscous type of lava than Hawaiian volcanoes, so it doesn't run as far, Lange said.

The Cascade volcanoes can produce huge clouds of choking ash and send deadly mudslides into rivers and streams. Two of the most potentially destructive are Mount St. Helens, north of the Portland, Oregon, metro area, and 14,000-foot (4,270-meter) Mount Rainier, which is visible from the cities of Seattle and Tacoma.

Mount Rainier eruptions in the distant past have caused destruction as far west as Puget Sound, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) away.

The volcano hasn't produced a significant eruption in the past 500 years. But it remains dangerous because of its great height, frequent earthquakes, active hydrothermal system, and 26 glaciers, experts said.

An eruption on Mount Rainier could rapidly melt glaciers, triggering huge mudflows—called lahars—that could reach the densely populated surrounding lowlands, Westby said.

Another major danger from a Cascade volcano eruption would be large amounts of ash thrown into the air, where it could foul aircraft engines.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITIES DOING TO PREPARE?

The closest settlement to a West Coast volcano may be Government Camp, on Oregon's Mount Hood. Lava could conceivably reach the town, but the greater threat is an eruption triggering a so-called pyroclastic flow, which is a fast-moving cloud of hot ash and gas, experts said.

Companies propose immigration detention centers for Midwest

Companies and local governments have proposed building new immigration detention centers in Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, responding to a request from Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials stepping up arrests in the center of the country.

The proposals, most by for-profit corrections contractors, were submitted to ICE after it put out a request in October for detention sites near Chicago, Detroit, Salt Lake City and St. Paul, Minnesota. ICE disclosed the proposals in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the National Immigrant Justice Center, which provided the information to The Associated Press.

The proposals, all preliminary, include one to build a 640-bed detention center in Pine Island, Minnesota, not far from Rochester, submitted by Management & Training Corp. and another by GEO Group for an 800-bed facility in rural Newton County, Indiana, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) south of Chicago.

CoreCivic Inc. proposed reopening the vacant Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton, Minnesota, to supply ICE with up to 600 beds, and expanding a detention center in Pahrump, Nevada, to add space for 604 immigrant detainees.

ICE pays private companies to hold about two-thirds of those detained for being in the country illegally, with the largest part of that business contracted to CoreCivic and GEO.

In addition to the proposals by companies, local governments have submitted plans. Calhoun County, Michigan, proposed building a dedicated immigrant detention facility with up to 300 beds at the county jail, in addition to 250 beds already under contract to ICE. Sherburne County, Minnesota, offered space for 300 detainees in its jail, with new construction possible to hold 200 others. Kankakee County, Illinois, already under contract to house 105 detainees, offered space for nearly 100 more and said it could complete construction of an annex to house 300 others.

Some of the proposals submitted to ICE include several that have already gained attention. They include a CoreCivic proposal to build a detention center in Elkhart County, Indiana, that was withdrawn earlier this year in the face of local opposition, and proposals by MTC for facilities in Evanston, Wyoming, and Hopkins Park, Illinois.

Oklahoma governor angers gun and gay rights groups same day

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Oklahoma's Republican Governor Mary Fallin vetoed a bill that would have allowed adults to carry handguns without a permit and signed another that permits religious organizations to exclude same sex couples from adoptions, managing to anger both gun and gay rights groups on the same day.

The twin actions announced late Friday were among more than a dozen decisions on legislation taken by the term-limited governor as she clears the decks in her waning months in office.

They also followed a tumultuous session of the Legislature that saw striking teachers march on the Capitol, prompting lawmakers to raise taxes including on the state's powerful oil and gas industry, to fund increases in education spending.

Her veto of the gun bill dealt a rare blow to the National Rifle Association in a conservative state. But the proposal to authorize adults to carry firearms without a permit or training was opposed by law enforcement officials, who said it would weaken background checks and hurt public safety.

In a statement announcing her veto, Fallin stressed her support for the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms and noted she had signed concealed and open carry measures in the past.

"I believe the firearms laws we currently have in place are effective, appropriate and minimal," she said.

The bill is similar to so-called "constitutional carry" legislation adopted in a dozen other states.

The NRA blasted Fallin for what it said was ignoring her promise when she ran for re-election in 2014 to support a constitutional carry gun law.

"Make no mistake, this temporary setback will be rectified when Oklahoma residents elect a new and genuinely pro-Second Amendment governor," said Chris Cox, NRA executive director for legislative affairs.

Fallin is in her second four-year term and cannot run for re-election this year. Several Republicans running to succeed her had called on Fallin to sign the measure.

The adoption decision also prompted an angry response, this time from LGBTQ groups, who said it was a license to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

The bill written by Republican Sen. Greg Treat provides legal protections to faith-based agencies that won't place children in LGBT homes because of religious or moral convictions or policies.

The Family Equality Council, which advocates for LGBTQ families, said the law allows religious groups "to discriminate on the basis of their belief that LGBTQ people should not be raising children."

Freedom Oklahoma, another LGBT advocacy group, threatened to sue the state.

Asia

PH top judge, Duterte's critic, ousted by colleagues

AP

Ousted Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, center, holds hands with husband Mario Jose Sereno as students give their support following her ouster in Friday, May 11, 2018 in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine Supreme Court ousted its chief justice, a critic of the country's authoritarian president, in an unprecedented vote Friday by fellow judges that she and hundreds of protesters called unconstitutional and a threat to democracy.

Court spokesman Theodore Te said justices voted 8-6 to grant a petition by the government's solicitor-general to remove Maria Lourdes Sereno from the 15-member tribunal for allegedly failing to file statements of assets and liabilities as required by law. Sereno denies the allegation and refused to participate in the vote.

Sereno has earned the ire of President Rodrigo Duterte by speaking up for the respect of law and human rights as he has led a brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of suspects dead. In the nearly two years the brash-talking leader has been in power, an opposition senator has been locked up on drug charges she says were fabricated and other critics have been insulted or threatened.

About 1,800 protesters gathered to support Sereno outside the court in Manila, where anti-riot police blocked an access road with trucks and iron railings to maintain order and separate a smaller group of anti-Sereno demonstrators.

Sereno is facing a separate impeachment bid in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte's allies. She has warned that efforts by the Duterte administration to oust her are a threat to democracy, saying the petition that led to Friday's vote violates the constitution, which stipulates that top officials like her can only be removed by impeachment.

The court also ordered Sereno to explain in 10 days why she should not be sanctioned for discussing the complaint against her in public and "for casting aspersions and ill-motive to the members of the Supreme Court."

Duterte's spokesman, Harry Roque, said the court decision must be respected. One of the justices who opposed the petition, Marvic Leonen, called it "a legal abomination" that should have been dismissed outright.

Sereno had called on six of her colleagues, who testified against her in the House impeachment hearings, to abstain from Friday's vote, citing their bias. If they had heeded her call, the effort to remove her would have failed, Sereno said.

After the vote, Sereno joined her supporters outside the court, asking them to organize a movement to defend justice and accountability.

"Let's continue to defend the constitution and fight wrongdoing. Let's continue to spread the message of democracy and reason," she told the crowd.

The justices who voted to remove her seized "the sole responsibility of the Senate, brazenly violated their sworn responsibility to protect the constitution and destroyed the judiciary," the 57-year-old former law professor said.

"This is more than a wake-up call. If we don't wake up now, it will really be the death of democracy and sometimes history is cruel," Roman Catholic priest and protest leader Robert Reyes told The Associated Press outside the court.

Once an independent judge like Sereno is ousted, "there will be no more balance of power. Duterte will be a virtual dictator," Reyes said.

Trump welcomes N. Korea plan to blow up nuke-site tunnels

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Saturday that it will dismantle its nuclear test site in less than two weeks, in a dramatic event that would set up leader Kim Jong Un's summit with President Donald Trump next month. Trump welcomed the "gracious gesture."

In a statement carried by state media, North Korea's Foreign Ministry said all of the tunnels at the country's northeastern testing ground will be destroyed by explosion, and observation and research facilities and ground-based guard units will also be removed.

Kim had already revealed plans to shut the test site by the end of May during his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in last month. Analysts say that while the closure of the site is important, it doesn't represent a material step toward full denuclearization.

"A ceremony for dismantling the nuclear test ground is now scheduled between May 23 and 25," depending on weather, the Foreign Ministry's statement said, adding that journalists from the United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Britain will be invited to witness the dismantling.

The ministry said the North will continue to "promote close contacts and dialogue with the neighboring countries and the international society so as to safeguard peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and over the globe."

Trump, in a tweet Saturday, thanked North Korea for its plan to dismantle the nuclear test site, calling it "a very smart and gracious gesture!"

Following the Moon-Kim meeting, Moon's office said Kim was willing to disclose the process to international experts, but the North's statement Saturday didn't address allowing experts on the site.

South Korea had no immediate response to the statement.

The North's announcement comes days after Washington announced that the historic summit between Kim and Trump will be held June 12 in Singapore.

South Korea has said Kim has genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons in return for economic benefits. However, there are lingering doubts about whether Kim would ever agree to fully relinquish the weapons he probably views as his only guarantee of survival.

During their meeting at a border truce village, Moon and Kim vaguely promised to work toward the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, but made no references to verification or timetables.

North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition. The North has been vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its 28,500 troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

Some experts believe Kim may try to drag out the process or seek a deal in which he gives away his intercontinental ballistic missiles but retains some of his shorter-range arsenal in return for a reduced U.S. military presence in the South. This could satisfy Trump but undermine the alliance between Washington and Seoul.

Kim declared his nuclear force as complete in December, following North Korea's most powerful nuclear test to date in September and three flight tests of ICBMs designed to reach the U.S. mainland.

North Korea announced at a ruling party meeting last month that it was suspending all tests of nuclear devices and ICBMs, as well as the plan to close the nuclear testing ground.

Malaysia bars scandal-ridden ex-leader from leaving country

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's new leader, Mahathir Mohamad, said Saturday that defeated scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife have been barred from leaving the country to prevent them from fleeing from possible prosecution over a massive corruption scandal.

A leaked flight manifesto showed that Najib and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, were due to leave on a private jet on Saturday to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, fueling rumors that he was bolting the country after a shocking electoral defeat earlier in the week that ended his coalition's 60-year grip on power.

Najib had said in a statement on social media on Saturday that he was planning to take a short vacation to spend time with his family. The immigration department, which initially said there was no travel ban, later issued a statement to say Najib and his wife had been blacklisted from leaving the country.

Mahathir confirmed that he prevented Najib from leaving. He said there was sufficient evidence for an investigation into Najib, in reference to the massive corruption scandal involving the 1MDB state fund that Najib set up and is being investigated in the United States and other countries.

U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and looted $4.5 billion from the fund, with some $700 million landing in Najib's bank account and around $30 million used to buy jewelry for his wife. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

"There are a lot of complaints against him, all of which have to be investigated," Mahathir told a news conference. "We have to act quickly because we don't want to be saddled with extradition from other countries."

Mahathir said the investigations would take some time because investigators need to contact authorities in other countries and gather evidence. He has said Najib will have to face a court if any wrongdoing is found.

Najib responded swiftly, saying he respects the immigration department's ruling and will remain in the country with his family. He also said he was committed to "facilitating a smooth transfer of power."

Later Saturday, Najib said at a news conference that he was stepping down as president of the United Malays National Organization and as chairman of the National Front coalition to take responsibility for Wednesday's election defeat. The announcement came after strong calls emerged from the UMNO, the linchpin of the coalition, for Najib to resign.

The National Front, which has ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain, won only 79 of the 222 parliamentary seats, losing power to Mahathir's four-party alliance amid public anger over the 1MDB scandal and a rising cost of living.

It was a remarkable comeback for the 92-year-old Mahathir, who was prime minister for 22 years until his retirement in 2003.

Najib, 64, said his deputy, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, would take over as UMNO president.

"We accept the people's verdict with an open heart," Najib said. "Maybe this will be an opportunity for us to fix our weaknesses and shortcomings, although these are more a matter of perception than reality. God willing, UMNO will continue to live."

World

Paris stabbings investigated as terror attack, claimed by IS

AP
A dead body lays under a blanket after a knife attack Saturday that left at least two dead including the assailant in central Paris, early Sunday May 13, 2018.

PARIS (AP)—A knife-wielding assailant killed a 29-year-old man and injured four others in a lively neighborhood near Paris' famed Opera Garnier before he was killed by police Saturday night. The Islamic State group claimed the attacker as one of its "soldiers."

Counterterrorism authorities took charge of the investigation, and President Emmanuel Macron vowed that France would not bow to extremists despite being the target of multiple deadly attacks in recent years.

Paris police officers evacuated people from some buildings in the Right Bank neighborhood after the attack, which happened on rue Monsigny at about 9 p.m. (1900 GMT.) Bar patrons and opera-goers described surprise and confusion in the immediate area.

Beyond the police cordon, however, crowds still filled nearby cafes and the city's night life resumed its normal pace soon after the attack.

The unidentified attacker targeted five people and then fled, according to Paris police and a witness. A 29-year-old man was killed, and four others were injured. When police officers arrived minutes later, he threatened them and was shot to death, according to police union official Yvan Assioma.

Authorities are working to identify the assailant and anyone who might have helped him, Interior Minister Gerard Collomb told reporters Sunday.

A knife-wielding assailant killed one person and injured four others in a lively neighborhood near Paris' famed Opera Garnier before he was killed by police Saturday night. The Islamic State group claimed the attacker as one of its "soldiers." (May 12)

Prosecutor Francois Molins said counterterrorism authorities are leading the investigation on potential charges of murder and attempted murder in connection with terrorist motives.

"At this stage, based on the one hand on the account of witnesses who said the attacker cried 'Allahu akbar' (God is great in Arabic) while attacking passersby with a knife, and given the modus operandi, we have turned this over to the counterterrorist section of the Paris prosecutor's office," Molins told reporters from the scene.

The Islamic State group's Aamaq news agency said in a statement early Sunday that the assailant carried out the attack in response to the group's calls for supporters to target members of the U.S.-led military coalition squeezing the extremists out of Iraq and Syria.

The Aamaq statement did not provide evidence for its claim or details on the assailant's identity.

France's military has been active in the coalition since 2014, and Islamic State adherents have killed more than 200 people in France in recent years, including the 130 who died in the coordinated November 2015 attacks in Paris.

President Emmanuel Macron tweeted his praise for police who "neutralized the terrorist" and said "France is once again paying the price of blood but will not cede an inch to enemies of freedom."

Saturday's attack occurred near many bars and theaters, as well as the opera.

France's BFM television interviewed an unnamed witness in a restaurant who said a young woman was at the entrance when "a man arrived and attacked her with a knife." A friend came to her aid and the attacker left, "hitting on all the doors, all the shops," the witness told BFM. He turned onto another street, and everyone scattered, the witness said.

Israel bombs Gaza tunnel, closes key crossing after attack

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military said Saturday it was shutting down its main cargo crossing into Gaza after Palestinian protesters caused extensive damage to it, and that it had also destroyed an attack tunnel militants dug near its main pedestrian crossing.

The twin developments come ahead of a potentially charged week along the Israel-Gaza border as weekly protests being staged there are expected to culminate with a potential breach of the border and a surge in casualties.

Once again, thousands of Palestinians protested Friday in various locations along the frontier. Later, a group of Palestinians burned a fuel complex and conveyor belt on their side of the Kerem Shalom crossing, causing more than $9 million in damages and disrupting the import of diesel fuel and building materials, the military said. It said the attack rendered the main fuel and gas lines unusable and caused further damage to electrical infrastructure and other vital equipment.

The military said the Kerem Shalom crossing will be closed until further notice and not before the damage is repaired.

A lengthy closing of the crossing would deliver further devastation to Gaza's already dire humanitarian crisis. The fuel installation is the only way to bring diesel fuel into Gaza for operating generators for hospitals and other key facilities. The military distributed a video showing Palestinians cheering as a fire was set. It was the second such attack on the facility in a week, it said. "Hamas continues to lead the residents of Gaza to destroy the only assistance they receive," the army said.

Late Saturday, the military carried out several airstrikes in the northern Gaza strip, near the Erez border crossing, to destroy a Hamas tunnel that was being built there. Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said the tunnel was being tracked for weeks and had been destroyed just a few meters (feet) inside Gaza. It's the sixth such Hamas tunnel Israel has destroyed in as many months thanks to the military's new technological means to detect and destroy them.

Hamas called the airstrikes a "failed attempt" to prevent it protests.

"Our people's response will come on Monday by marching" to the fence, it said in a statement.

Conricus said both incidents proved Israel's long-standing claim that Hamas, and other militant groups, were merely using the popular mass protests as cover for attacks against Israel. He said the military was doubling its troops along the border in advance of this week's protests and that Israel would not allow the area to become an active combat zone.

"This really shows the cynicism of the Hamas terror organization toward the citizens they are supposed to care for," Conricus told reporters. "Hamas is killing Gaza with its terrorist activities against civilian facilities."

An extended closing of the cargo crossing could be particularly painful. Cooking gas and fuel, which are delivered to Gaza through Kerem Shalom on a daily basis, are the first and most essential items likely to be affected. A fear of shortage had already engulfed Gaza late Saturday, as more cars were lining up at gas station to stock on diesel and gasoline.

WORLD BRIEFS

26 people killed in Burundi 'terrorist' attack: Official

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)—Twenty-six people were killed and seven others wounded in an attack by an unidentified "terrorist group" in rural Burundi, the country's security minister said Saturday. The attack came shortly before Burundians vote May 17 in a controversial referendum that could extend the president's term. It was not immediately clear if the attack was related, although some activists said they believe it was. Speaking at the scene, Security Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni told reporters that 24 people were killed in their homes Friday night and two others died of their wounds at a local hospital. He gave no further details about the attack in Ruhagarika community in the northwestern province of Cibitoke. One survivor told The Associated Press the attackers came around 10 p.m. and "attacked households and set fire on houses." Some victims were hacked with machetes and others were shot or burned alive, she said. Her husband and two children were killed, she said. She spoke on condition of anonymity, citing safety concerns.

Pope to give Chilean bishops a dressing-down on abuse errors

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican made it clear Saturday that Pope Francis had summoned Chile's bishops to Rome for a papal dressing-down because of their role in covering up sexual abuse by priests and their "grave omissions" in caring for victims. In a harsh statement that set the tone for next week's meetings, the Vatican said Francis wanted to discern responsibilities for the crisis and map changes in the Chilean church to prevent these "devastating wounds" from recurring. "It is fundamental to re-establish trust in the church through good pastors ... who know how to accompany the suffering of victims and work in a determined and tireless way to prevent abuse," the statement said. For years, sex abuse victims have blasted the Chilean hierarchy for discrediting their claims, protecting abusers, moving them around rather than reporting them to police and then handing out light sentences when church sanctions are imposed.

Monitor: 42 killed by Israeli strikes in Syria this week

BEIRUT (AP)—A wave of Israeli strikes on suspected military positions in Syria this week killed 42 people, including at least 19 Iranians, a Syria war monitor reported Saturday. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the death toll from attacks early Thursday has risen from 23 to 27, including at least 11 Iranians and six Syrian soldiers, including three officers. In total, 42 people, including 19 Iranians, were killed over two days of strikes—from Tuesday to Thursday—according to the Observatory. The escalation between Israel and Iran has raised fears the region may be sliding into an unprecedented direct confrontation between the two arch-enemies. Israel's defense minister called on Syria's President Bashar Assad on Friday to clear his country of Iranian forces based there—warning that their presence will only bring more trouble to the already war-ravaged country.

Health & Wellness

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Family Flying Kite Camping Holiday In Countryside.

Healthy eating, at home and on the go

Dear Mayo Clinic: Our busy family of five rarely has a chance to sit down to meals together during the week. We often eat out or order takeout. I feel like this leads to a lot of unhealthy eating that includes way too many french fries. Can you give me some ideas for fitting healthy meals into a hectic schedule?

Making healthy meal choices while juggling a busy schedule can be challenging. But it doesn't have to mean fast food and a steady diet of fries. By taking some time to plan and making thoughtful choices when eating away from home, you can eat healthy on the go.

You're not alone in your struggle to fit home meals into a jam-packed calendar. About 60 percent of food dollars in the U.S. are spent on food prepared or eaten away from home. Relying on restaurants or takeout is often a quick solution to meals amid the weekday evening rush. But that convenience comes at a price. Large portions filled with an excess of ingredients such as salt, fat and sugar, and prepared in unhealthy ways, can sabotage healthy eating goals.

When you prepare meals at home, you tend to eat more reasonable portions, and the food is often more nutritious. You can make it easier to create healthy home meals regularly by planning ahead.

First, take 15 minutes at the beginning of each week to look at your schedule to determine when you'll have time to cook and eat at home, and when meals will need to be quick. Try prepping and cooking ahead (batch cooking). Planning for leftovers or having items already cooked that can be incorporated into another meal can aid in ready or near ready-to-eat meals. Kitchen appliances, such as slow-cookers, pressure cookers or sous vide, are popular ways to make time-efficient, homemade meals. When you know how you're going to handle meals each evening, you'll be less likely to fall back on takeout foods or restaurants when pressed for time.

Second, as you make your grocery list, include healthy foods your family can eat on the run. For snacks, buy fruits and vegetables that don't need much preparation, such as apples, grapes and baby carrots. Stock ingredients, such as lean meats and canned fish, low-fat cheeses, tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers and lettuce for easy, healthy salads and sandwiches.

In some cases, takeout food can be part of healthy home meals, too. When you're in a time crunch, try pairing ready-to-eat broiled or baked chicken from a deli with a vegetable or fruit and a healthy starch at home. A meal like that takes under 30 minutes to prepare and provides a better balance of nutrients than most restaurant meals—less salt and fat, and more vitamins, minerals and fiber.

When you must eat away from home, choose wisely. Go to restaurants that offer a range of menu items, rather than those that focus on a few unhealthy options such as burgers and fries or pizza. If you can, check the calories, saturated fat and sodium count in menu items before you order.

Pick items that are baked, broiled or grilled instead of fried. Substitute fresh fruit or a salad for a side dish rather than french fries. Ask for condiments, such as mayonnaise and salad dressing, to be served on the side, so you can decide how much to add.

Be mindful, too, of portion sizes. A restaurant meal may equal two or three portions of a meal you would serve at home. With that in mind, consider splitting a restaurant meal with someone else. Or ask for a to-go box before you start eating, and put half your meal into it right away. This has two benefits. You eat a more reasonably sized portion, and you have a meal ready for someone to eat during another busy evening.

Although it takes some preparation and planning, you can have healthy meals even as you and your family are dashing in and out the door. ***(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)***

Quinn on Nutrition: Weight management is personal

By BARBARA QUINN
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

I'm having an up and down relationship with my scale this month. I'm not trying to do anything dramatic, just eliminate a few bulges that keep me uncomfortable in my usually comfortable clothes.

I'm a dietitian. I know this stuff, right? Most of the time, I can figure out what strategies work best for my clients who need to lose weight. But this is me. I'm not always objective when I look at my own day to day habits. And let's face it, when we want or need to change certain routines, just knowing what we should do doesn't always cut it.

I wish I had a trip to the mountains each time I heard, "I know what I need to do, I just don't do it." Which begs the question, 'Why don't we always do what we know we need to do?'

Part of it, say nutrition experts (this is me talking to me right now) is making an honest determination if I am really ready to make changes and do the work. It's called motivation—how ready am I right now (let's say on a scale of 1 to 10) to commit time and energy to alter the habits that need to be altered?

And there's another zinger. How confident am I that I can really lose this weight and keep it off? Researchers call this "self-efficacy" which is not just feeling confident about myself. Self-efficacy, according to an article on this topic in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, is "a specific belief (I can do this) tied to a specific task (I can say no to M&M's today). A strong belief that I can do this can be a powerful predictor of my success.

It's a constant struggle, though, wanting to make changes and fighting against actually making them. I reassure my clients, for example, not to get so focused on the scale. And then … I do.

I shouldn't feel too bad. According the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)—the largest organization of nutrition professionals in the world—there is a ton (sorry) of valid scientific research to guide us toward safe, effective, long-lasting, non-crazy-making weight loss. However, according to the Academy's current position paper on this topic, the best way to combine all these strategies and techniques to lose weight successfully is still to be determined.

Ok, fine! Maybe what I should do is experiment, using tried and true techniques and strategies of course. And then perhaps I can discover what works best for me.

Now I understand a bit more why nutrition professionals stress an individualized approach to weight management. It's the only thing that works.

Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.

By BARTON GOLDSMITH
Tribune News Service

Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a psychotherapist in Westlake Village, Calif., is the author of "The Happy Couple: How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time." Follow his daily insights on Twitter at @BartonGoldsmith

Reasons for living

Contrary to popular belief, suicides do not increase over the holiday season but actually peak in late July and August. We do not know why.

When life is full of sadness or depressing, having the thought that it would be easier if you were not here is normal for many people. But those passing thoughts at low times are vastly different from creating a plan and finding the means to end your own life. If this is where you are, please reconsider.

I have seen firsthand what damage taking your own life can do to those around you. It can ruin their lives, and for some who commit this devastating act, that's the purpose, but there are many better ways to deal with life's problems and issues.

Most of us go through dark times, have heartbreaking loss, and feel sadness for many reasons. Life is difficult, and that is a hard thing to hear and even a harder one to deal with. Yes, terrible things happen to us, but those who continue onward usually find that the darkness does end, and even though life may be different, it's still your life, and you have the power to change many things that are not working for you at the moment.

Making your life better is not rocket science. If your satisfaction with life is dependent on being with another person, then you have a few choices. Seek that person out, and if he or she will have you, then you can join together on a lovely journey. If you cannot be with the one you desire, then just being around good people will help you heal your pain and give you a reason for being.

Yes, helping others is great for your soul and emotional well-being, but what if you are the one that wants the help? This is why support groups exist. You get the opportunity to heal, learn from and help others, and even if you think that you have nothing to offer, your own story could inspire someone to make the same choice that you have made: to look for reasons to be here and act on them.

When you question whether or not you want to stay on the planet, it's helpful to make a list of the things that you still like about living. I know that when someone is severely depressed, it can be daunting to find the beauty in a sunset or even in the smiles of your own children. This is why reminding yourself of what life has to offer is so important. Even if you can't feel it, you can think it, and just keeping the thought in your head that things will be okay can get you through a low time and let you come out the other side.

The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration funds a round-the-clock help line: 1-800-SUICIDE. If you call, you will be able to speak with a trained counselor who will listen to you and make recommendations. You can call more than once. And there are other options, also. Many cities have a 211 line for mental health issues, where free crisis counseling is available. You do not have to suffer in silence. There are trained people out there who want to help you, so please call them. It's amazing how one good conversation can lift your spirits and help you see things differently.

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Life & Style

Netta Barzilai wins 2018 Eurovision Song Contest for Israel

Netta from Israel celebrates after winning the Eurovision song contest in Lisbon, Portugal, Saturday, May 12, 2018 during the Eurovision Song Contest grand final. AP

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Netta Barzilai is sassy, she's fun and she can sing—and now the Israeli has won the Eurovision Song Contest with a catchy techno dance tune about women's empowerment.

The 25-year-old pre-competition favorite beat out competition from 42 other countries' performers Saturday to claim the music extravaganza's annual crown at the Grand Final with her song "Toy."

There was a strong field of contestants at this year's event in Lisbon, Portugal, which was watched by an estimated 200 million people. The votes coming in live from the capitals of participating countries delivered a tense finale, with Israel gripped in a tight, five-way race with Cyprus, Austria, Sweden and Germany.

Barzilai eventually racked up 529 points, compared with 436 for runner-up Cyprus with "Fuego" by Eleni Foureira, and 342 for third-place Austria with Cesar Sampson's "Nobody But You."

The contest largely shed its traditional hallmarks of glitz and glitter in favor of a more restrained and tasteful tone in Lisbon, which was hosting the event because it won last year with Salvador Sobral's sober and subdued ballad "Amar pelos Dois."

Sobral last week criticized "Toy" as "horrible music," insisting the focus should be on the music and not the spectacle.

But Barzilai, with her Asian-themed show in red and yellow and her dancers doing funky chicken moves, was unrepentant.

"I'm happy people chose something different. It's refreshing," she said. "I believe authenticity (shows) through."

Her win—Israel's fourth and first since 1998—means her country hosts next year's Eurovision Song Contest.

"Next time in Jerusalem!" Barzilai shouted to the audience as she picked up her award.

The international contest began as a competition between European countries, but its huge popularity has led to the inclusion of Israel and Australia among the performers.

Barzilai, known more usually as Netta, has a witty and endearing personality. Before the Grand Final, her song had already racked up more than 20 million views on Eurovision's YouTube channel.

In "Toy," Netta makes funny noises, including a clucking sound like a chicken and barely decipherable words, and uses a looping machine and synthesizer.

The lyrics say, "I'm not your toy, You stupid boy, I'll take you down."

Portugal came last, with 39 points.

Fans caught their breath when a protester ran onto the stage and snatched away the microphone of the United Kingdom's contestant SuRie.

The man got hold of the microphone but was quickly tackled by security and taken away while SuRie stood by. The British singer kept her composure and picked up her song where she left off.

Previous editions of the annual event have also witnessed protesters getting onto the stage.

Rockefeller treasures break record for single-owner auction

Bidding representatives take bids from buyers during an auction from the collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller, Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at Christies in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Peggy and David Rockefeller's lavish artworks and other treasures set a new world record this week at a Christie's auction, topping $800 million as the priciest ever single-owner collection.

That's about twice the previous record of $484 million from a 2009 Paris sale of designer Yves Saint Laurent's estate.

The three-day live sale of the late couple's belongings ended Thursday with a $115 million star lot—a Picasso painting called "Fillette a la corbeille fleurie" of a naked girl holding a basket of flowers that once belonged to the writer Gertrude Stein, estimated to be worth $100 million. The runner-up, at $84 million, was a Monet canvas with his famed water lilies, "Nimpheas en fleur," which surpassed its $50 million estimate and set a record for his art at auction against a previous high of $81 million.

Matisse's "Odalisque Couchee aux Magnolias"—depicting a woman in a Turkish harem—sold for $80.8 million, topping the $70 million estimate and setting a new record for a Matisse, whose highest price at auction had been $48.8 million.

In what one art publication dubbed "Rockefeller Mania," Christie's said 100 percent of the 893 Rockefeller lots offered live had sold, for a total of $828 million, as well as all of the more than 600 lots sold online for $4.6 million.

Diego Rivera's 1931 "The Rivals" went for the highest price ever paid for a Latin American artwork on the block—$9.8 million against a pre-auction estimate of $5 million to $7 million.

On Friday, the sale wasn't over till the online-only bids were in. Anyone with a few hundred dollars could go for a piece of the opulence that surrounded the late Rockefeller couple—by bidding on, say, cufflinks or jewelry. A 14-carat gold money clip once filled with Rockefeller cash sold for $75,000 against an estimate of $800 to $1,200.

Liam, Emma lead top baby names in US for 2017

Emma and Liam were the most frequently chosen baby names for 2017.

For the fourth year in a row, Emma was the top girl's name according to the annual list of the most popular baby names released by the Social Security Administration on Friday. Liam pushed last year's champ, Noah, to second to claim the top spot.

The Social Security Administration releases the 1,000 most popular baby names each year. They trumpeted the name reveals Friday with a Facebook Live announcement. The agency uses the announcement to draw traffic to its website, where workers can begin tracking their benefits long before retirement.

When it came to girls' names, Emma was followed by Olivia, Ava, Isabella and Sophia.

For the boys, Liam and Noah were followed by William, James and Logan.

Other trends last year included a rise in the use of Melania for a girl, likely influenced by first lady Melania Trump.

One girl's name that continued a downward slide is Alexa, which ranked 32nd in 2015 but placed 65th in 2017. That could be due to parents not wanting their daughter to share the same name with the voice assistant that lives inside Amazon's Echo speakers.

Pamela Redmond Satran, who blogs about baby-naming and is also co-founder of the baby name site Nameberry.com, said the rise of Liam reflects the large population of Irish people in the U.S. who may not speak Gaelic, but have ethnic pride.

"I think you see ethnic influences coming into play in a more indirect way. You see more parents looking back and looking for places in their lives that hold meaning that can be translated into names," said Satran, who also co-wrote the books "The Baby Name Bible" and "Cool Names for Babies."

Ethnic pride could also be a factor for parents of Hispanic descent. A lot of new parents "are using Hispanic names rather than trying to pick more Anglo-fied names," Satran said.

She also says Hispanic culture has become more ingrained in the food, music and television that Americans consume. So, names such as Sofia and Ariana become more well-known. In fact, Sofia came in as the 15th most popular. At its peak, it was No. 12 in 2014. There's no telling if famous Sofias like actress Sofia Vergara or the Disney animated series, "Sofia the First," were contributing factors.

Signed and sealed: Queen gives consent to Harry's marriage

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace has released an image of the handwritten document in which Queen Elizabeth II gives her consent for Prince Harry to marry Meghan Markle.

The Instrument of Consent image was released Saturday—a week before Harry is to marry the American actress at St. George's Chapel in Windsor.

The document, illuminated on vellum, features a design to the left of the text that incorporates a red dragon, the symbol of Wales. The design to the right features a rose, the national flower of the United States.

Under British law, the first six people in the line of succession to the throne must obtain the queen's permission to wed.

Harry was fifth in line when he and Markle got engaged. He was bumped to sixth with the birth of his brother's son Prince Louis last month.

Broadway performance canceled due to Jim Parsons injury

NEW YORK (AP)—An injury to actor Jim Parsons has forced the cancellation of a performance of the Broadway revival of "The Boys in the Band."

People who said they attended the Saturday matinee performance indicated on Twitter that Parsons tripped during the encore and limped off while other cast members took their bows.

Parson

The show's Twitter account said the Saturday evening performance was canceled "due to a minor injury of a cast member."

Parsons is part of the ensemble cast of the 50th anniversary production of the landmark play about gay life in the pre-Stonewall era.

He also stars in the long-running sitcom "The Big Bang Theory."

A spokeswoman for Parsons did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

82 women walk the red carpet in Cannes film fest protest

CANNES, France (AP)—Eighty-two women climbed the steps of the Palais des Festivals at the Cannes Film Festival in an unprecedented red carpet protest to press for improved gender equality in the film industry.

The number of stars, filmmakers and film industry professionals ascending the steps represented the number of female filmmakers who have been selected to compete at Cannes during the festival's seven-decade history.

In contrast to their 82, 1,866 films directed by men have been picked for the prestigious festival lineup.

Organizers said the event was orchestrated by the Time's Up movement and the French movement known as 5020x2020 to show "how hard it is still to climb the social and professional ladder" for women.

It brought an array of film industry professionals to the Cannes red carpet, including actresses Salma Hayek and Jane Fonda, "Wonder Woman" filmmaker Patty Jenkins and French director Agnes Varda, a recipient of an honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes.

Also joining were the five female members of this year's Cannes jury: Cate Blanchett, Kristen Stewart, Ava DuVernay, Lea Seydoux and Burundian singer Khadja Nin. Blanchett read a statement atop the Palais steps in English; Varda read it in French.

"Women are not a minority in the world, yet the current state of the industry says otherwise," Blanchett said. "We stand together on these steps today as a symbol of our determination to change and progress."

"The stairs of our industry must be accessible to all," she concluded. "Let's climb."

The protest was held ahead of the premiere of French filmmaker Eva Husson's "Girls of the Sun," which is about a Kurdish battalion of women soldiers. Husson is one of three female filmmakers out of the 21 movies in competition for the Palme d'Or this year.

The other two—Nadine Labaki's "Capernaum," and Alice Rohrwacher's "Happy as Lazzaro"—are to premiere next week.

Cannes has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years over the number of female directors selected into its main slate, considered one of the most esteemed achievements in cinema. Jane Campion is the only female filmmaker to ever win the Palme.

The festival supported Saturday's protest. Festival director Thierry Fremaux earlier this week hailed Saturday's event as a way for women "to affirm their presence."

Fremaux has repeatedly insisted that the festival chooses its films purely based on quality. But he's also signaled that the festival is reanalyzing its procedures and making its selection committees gender-balanced.

AP

Eighty two film industry professionals stand on the steps of the Palais des Festivals to represent, what they describe as pervasive gender inequality in the film industry, at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Cannes: Chastain's female-led spy film sells to Universal

CANNES, France (AP)—In one of the biggest sales of the Cannes Film Festival, Universal Pictures has acquired the female-led spy thriller "355," which Jessica Chastain has promoted as an antidote to male-centered action films.

Universal on Saturday closed the sale of the highly touted project. Earlier this week, Chastain and co-stars Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Lupita Nyong'o and Fan Bingbing posed for photographers and pitched the film to potential buyers.

Simon Kinberg, director of the upcoming X-Men film "Dark Phoenix," in which Chastain co-stars, is slated to direct the film. With an approximate budget of $75 million, "355" was one of the highest-profile projects up for sale in Cannes, the world's largest film market.

Deadline first reported the deal.

Happy 1 month, True: Khloe Kardashian debuts her baby

Khloe Kardashian has debuted baby True on Instagram with a video snippet wishing her chubby-cheeked daughter a happy first month.

The tiny reveal, complete with a flower filter, came Saturday as allegations swirl that the reality star's NBA boyfriend, Tristan Thompson, cheated on her while she was pregnant. The two have been spotted out regularly since True was born April 12.

"Happy 1 month old, mama. I love you pretty girl," Kardashian is heard saying off camera as the adorable infant coos softly.

The post was viewed nearly 8 million times in the first two hours, with more than 116,000 comments, including one from sister Kim Kardashian West calling True "The most gorgeous girl!!!"

Khloe replied: "Auntie KiKi she loves you so much!!!!!"

Teen with older boyfriend keeps dangerously late hours

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is 19 and lives with me. She is seeing a 26-year-old man who has a child with another woman he didn't marry.

When my daughter goes out with him, he keeps her out until 3:30 a.m. or later. He has done this twice that I know of. I had a conversation with him, and he assured me he would make sure she is home before midnight, to no avail.

I don't think he's good for my daughter. Should I forbid her from seeing him (because she lives in my house) or let her make her own decision? We are NOT going to raise a baby out of wedlock!

TEEN'S DAD

DEAR DAD: Your 19-year-old daughter is considered to be an adult even if she's not acting like it. Tread carefully because if you forbid her to see this man, she may rebel by moving out and in with him.

You have the right to make clear to her that under no circumstances will you raise a baby out of wedlock, and that if he gets her pregnant, she'll be on her own. And while you're at it, point out that her school or job will suffer if she continues the late hours she's been keeping. "Remind" her that what she's doing is irresponsible and will keep her from succeeding if she doesn't straighten up. Then cross your fingers that your daughter will get the message.

DEAR ABBY: I need advice about my son. He has started doing bicycle training with a coach and some other cyclists, and he likes it a lot. But I continually hear about accidents with bicycles, and every time he goes, I am frightened for him.

My husband was a cyclist for many years, and he encourages him. I want to do the same, but fear stops me. What must I do? I pray every time he goes and surrender him to God. Is this the right way?

FEARFUL IN NICOSIA, CYPRUS

DEAR FEARFUL: A mother's primary instinct is to protect her young. The problem is, parents can't protect their children in every circumstance, and cycling is a mode of transportation being promoted everywhere.

It's a plus that your son is working with a coach, presumably one who understands the hazards and road conditions in your city. Under the circumstances, you are doing the best you can and you are doing the right thing. There is no requirement that you "must" encourage your son as his father is doing.

I believe in the power of prayer, and if it makes you feel better, then it is absolutely the right thing to do.

DEAR READERS: I'm honored to participate in National Women's Health Week (May 13-19). Women are the primary caretakers in most societies—including our own. But in the process we too often forget to take care of ourselves—by eating right, getting enough sleep, controlling our stress levels with regular exercise and scheduling regular medical checkups. Please don't procrastinate. Start now! National Women's Health Week is a perfect time to begin. Visit womenshealth.gov/nwhw for more information.

LOVE, ABBY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HOBBES! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I'M IN BIG TROUBLE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU KNOW HOW DAD SAID I COULD USE HIS BINOCULARS AS LONG AS I WAS EXTRA CAREFUL WITH THEM? WELL, I JUST BROKE THEM BY ACCIDENT!
NOW I NEED SOME ADVICE. SHOULD I RUN AWAY, OR COMMIT HARA-KIRI?
OVER THE BINOCULARS?
YEAH.
MAYBE BOTH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

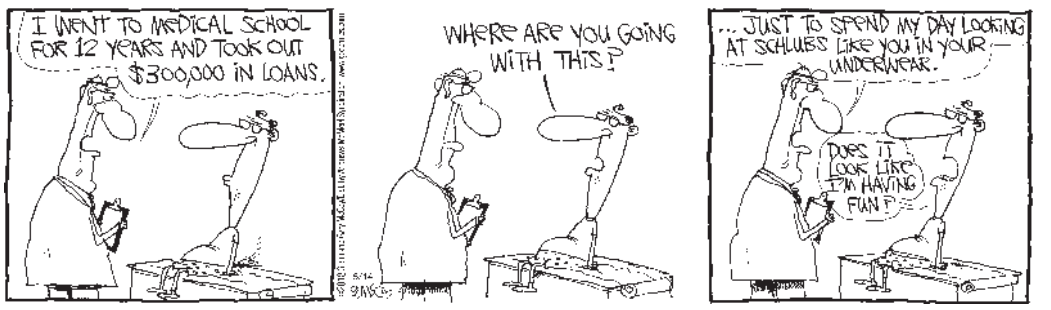
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, ADAM!
HEY, ANDRE.
WHATCHA WORKIN' ON TODAY?
WELL, MY LAST BOOK IDEA KINDA FIZZLED OUT.
SO I'M GONNA DO SOME MAJOR BRAINSTORMING.
SHOULD I ALERT THE OTHER CUSTOMERS?
NAH. BUT I'D HAVE PONCHOS AND SANDBAGS READY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I WENT TO MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR 12 YEARS AND TOOK OUT $300,000 IN LOANS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?
... JUST TO SPEND MY DAY LOOKING AT SCHLUBS LIKE YOU IN YOUR UNDERWEAR.
DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M HAVING FUN?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

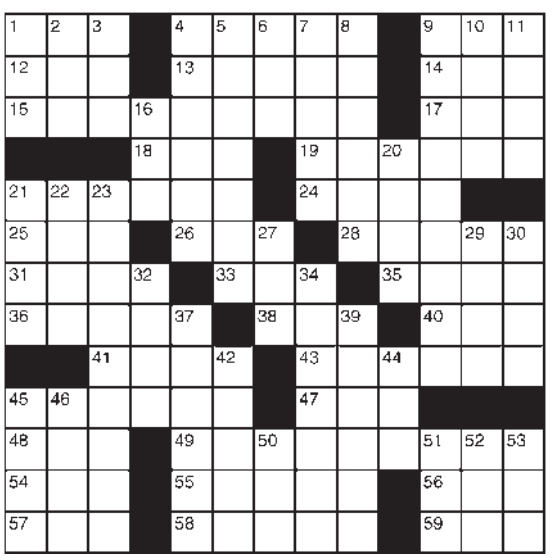
ACROSS
1 Napkin's place
4 Without — in the world
9 Honey holder
12 Sheepish remark
13 "Don Juan" poet
14 World Cup cheer
15 Fat avoider of rhyme
17 Arrest
18 Always, in verse
19 Poolside structure
21 1997 Demi Moore film
24 Hastens
25 Exist
26 "For shame!"
28 Eye surgery
31 "The Martian" actor Damon
33 Use a straw
35 "I did it!"
36 Ruhr Valley city
38 Casual shirt
40 Texter's chuckle
41 Svelte
43 Irritate
45 Boat basin
47 Employ
48 — -de-France
49 Monster.com activity
54 Cagers' gp.
55 Popular typeface
56 "— Lazy River"
57 Weir
58 Opera legend Beverly
59 Has permission

DOWN
1 JFK's veep
2 Bond rating
3 Lobbying org.
4 Missing
5 Cone-bearing tree
6 Schedule abbr.
7 Pesky crawler
8 Involve
9 Vaccine pioneer
10 Arkin or Alda
11 Country's McEntire
16 Mauna —
20 Tempo
21 Up for it
22 Nest egg choices
23 High-altitude wind
27 DIY buy
29 Pedestal occupant
30 Hardy cabbage
32 Actress Hatcher
34 Quick scan
37 Japanese warriors
39 Art props
42 New Zealand native
44 PBS funder
45 Behave
46 Goya's duchess
50 Cartoonist Keane
51 Pirates' potation
52 Tax prep pro
53 Horse chow

Solution time: 26 mins.

S	O	Γ	A	S	■	M	A	P	■	C	A	L
■	R	A	M	P	■	I	C	E	■	A	R	A
A	B	N	E	R	■	S	H	A	I	N	E	S
■	■	C	R	E	O	L	E	■	N	I	T	E
G	H	I	■	E	K	E	■	U	T	T	E	R
B	E	E	T	■	A	C	A	G	E	■	■	■
S	H	R	I	M	P	■	S	H	R	I	L	L
■	■	■	V	S	I	G	N	■	S	K	O	B
P	E	R	O	N	■	O	E	R	■	R	N	S
E	T	A	L	■	G	A	R	A	G	E	■	■
S	H	R	I	V	E	L	■	■	N	A	N	E
■	O	E	■	A	N	I	■	S	A	C	R	C
S	S	R	■	T	E	E	■	E	T	H	A	N

Last Friday's Answer 05-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Cosgrove, 25; Cate Blanchett, 49; Tim Roth, 57; George Lucas, 74.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused. You'll have plenty of choices, but homing in on your skills and making the most of what you do best will lead to success and the response and compliments you want to receive. Refuse to let anyone interfere or make you second-guess what you are trying to accomplish. Strive for perfection and concentrate on your long-term goals. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 23, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make changes because you want to, not because someone else is putting demands on you or giving you an ultimatum. Know when to walk away from a situation that is no longer working for you. Choose personal success over anger. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for opportunities. A partnership will turn out to be more beneficial than anticipated. The ability to adapt to change will help you stay on top of your game and encourage you to keep up with the latest technology and economic trends. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Personal changes can be made, but before you begin, do the legwork required to ensure your timing is impeccable and your plan sound. Refusing to listen to good advice or believing someone who hasn't shown to be trustworthy will be your downfall. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get involved. What you contribute to your community or to a group effort will make a difference to the way people treat you, as well as the information they share. An offer should be considered and discussed. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Taking on too much at work will cause problems at home. Maintaining balance in your life will be the only way to avoid an argument. Use your charm and social skills to ensure everyone you deal with is happy. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set up a business trip or meeting. Attend a conference or network with people who can offer you insight into future trends. A personal relationship should be monitored carefully. Someone close to you will withhold information or mislead you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You may not like the changes going on around you, but in the end, the benefits will be in your best interest. Strive to make personal improvements and learn to let go and move forward. Release the past. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Partnership opportunities look promising. Communication and collaboration will lead to all sorts of interesting concepts and propositions. Share your thoughts and start to put your plans into motion. Your hard work and determination will begin to pay off. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Times are changing and talk is cheap. Make a point to stay on top of what everyone around you is doing. Being in the know will put a damper on anyone trying to take advantage of you. A change of heart is apparent. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* The changes you make at home or to the way you live will ease stress and open doors that have been closed in the past. You'll establish greater stability and gain approval from those you deal with personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take time to mull over what's going on around you. Problems with friends or relatives should be handled with caution. Refuse to get caught in the middle of someone else's dispute. Personal improvements should be your goal. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Check into alternative ways to earn more money. Touch base and catch up with past employers or colleagues. Restructure the way you present what you have to offer. A couple of changes will lead to a new beginning. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are studious, practical and classy. You are ambitious and relentless.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

4	3	6		5	2		8	
5			7		4			2
9					6			
	5					2	4	8
6				3				5
7	1	8					9	
			4					7
1			8		3			6
	4		5	6		9	2	1

Difficulty Level ★ 5/14

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

4	6	8	1	3	7	2	9	5
7	5	9	2	4	6	8	1	3
3	1	2	9	5	8	4	7	6
9	4	7	3	6	2	5	8	1
2	8	5	7	1	9	6	3	4
6	3	1	4	8	5	7	2	9
1	2	6	5	7	3	9	4	8
5	9	3	8	2	4	1	6	7
8	7	4	6	9	1	3	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 5/11

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLENHEIM PALACE — Solution: 7 letters

N	F	L	R	B	E	W	O	O	D	S	T	O	C	K
L	O	L	U	M	E	R	T	C	E	P	S	A	I	N
A	R	I	O	S	T	E	K	C	I	T	S	A	N	I
K	M	H	T	E	R	C	E	S	N	C	S	M	D	G
E	A	C	W	A	L	K	P	E	A	E	A	R	E	H
N	L	R	E	S	C	E	M	D	K	R	O	N	R	T
E	S	U	L	K	N	U	E	U	L	T	O	R	E	S
D	D	H	L	C	N	L	D	B	H	T	R	E	L	P
R	N	C	E	O	B	N	O	E	S	S	G	D	L	A
A	A	R	M	R	U	R	O	N	Q	U	A	N	A	R
G	L	E	A	M	O	R	I	S	E	U	N	E	V	K
E	D	M	A	U	Y	W	I	L	L	I	S	V	R	L
S	O	S	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	M	R	A	F	A
O	O	H	D	E	E	R	E	C	I	T	A	L	S	N
R	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E	N	G	L	A	N	D

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Areas, Cascade, Churchill, Cinderella, Deer, Dukes, Education, England, Farm, Formal, Home, Knights, Lake, Lavender, Marble, Marlborough, Monuments, Organs, Parkland, Recitals, Rocks, Rosamund, Rose Garden, Secret, Spectre, Spencer, Theory, Tickets, Tour, Venues, Walk, Weddings, Well, Wildlife, Willis, Winston, Woodlands, Woodstock

Last Friday's Answer: Inhale

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books. visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF HUI TIAN CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Dissolution of Hui Tian Corporation. A corporation established and operating in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has been filed with the CNMI Registrar of Corporation on this 11th of May, 2018. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claim against the corporation are hereby notified to present their respective claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below.

Hui Tian Corporation
P.O. Box 503609, Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time required by law will forever be barred.

/s/ CHEN, HONGCHAO
Secretary
Dated this 11th of May, 2018.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA 2018-006

OPENING DATE: May 01, 2018 • **CLOSING DATE:** June 01, 2018 • **TIME:** 4:30 P.M.

SALARY: $45,000.00 to $54,193.00-per annum
UNGRADED

Office Manager

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96650-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No. 2018-005

Opening Date: April 19, 2018 **Closing Date:** May 21, 2018
Time: 4:30 P.M.

Salary: $23,394.03 to $27,081.51 - per annum • PL 10-01 to PL 10-04

1 - APPLIANCE TECHNICIAN I

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

TAGA SPORTS
APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION
The CNMI's premier sports magazine is now available on
issuu.com/tagasports

WHATZIT Solution: Couldn't care less

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Woods shoots 65, his lowest score ever at Players

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (A)—Tiger Woods turned in his best round of the season and his lowest score ever at The Players Championship.

It sky-rocketed him up the leaderboard, and he stayed there.

Woods shot a 7-under 65 in the third round Saturday, besting his previous low score on the Stadium Course by a stroke. He honed in his iron shots, fine-tuned his putter and was so hot through 12 holes that it looked as if he might challenge the Stadium Course record at TPC Sawgrass.

"I wish I could repeat it more often, but honestly it was just a better start," Woods said. "I got off to a much better-quality start."

Woods took advantage of warm temperatures, soft greens and little wind by making birdies at three of the first four holes . He drained putts of 15, 5, 10 and 17 feet, regaining a scoring touch that eluded him last week at the Wells Fargo Championship and in the opening two rounds in Ponte Vedra Beach.

"Eventually I was going to put all the pieces together and today, for the most part, I did that," he said. "I hit a lot of good, quality shots. I hit some shots in the correct spots, which was nice. I hit probably three of the best long irons I've hit all week."

Woods will be paired with Jordan Spieth for the final round Sunday and will start the day 11 shots behind Webb Simpson.

AP

Tiger Woods waves on the 18th green during the third round of the Players Championship golf tournament, Saturday, May 12, 2018, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

No one has ever overcome such a deficit to win on the PGA Tour.

Nonetheless, Woods likes how his game is coming together.

He pointed to his tee shot at the 242-yard, par-3 eighth, which landed a little more than 30 feet from the hole; his second shot at the par-5 ninth, which stopped on the fringe from nearly 270 yards out; and his towering approach shot at the par-5 11th, which carried two bunkers and part of a pond before landing on the putting surface and leaving him a lengthy eagle putt.

His only complaint was not keeping it rolling. He cooled off down the stretch, making five pars and a bogey over the final six holes.

He pushed his drive into thick rough at the difficult par-4 14th and ended up with his lone bogey of the day. He had a chance to get it back two holes later, but lipped out a 10-footer following a stellar bunker shot.

"To be 8-under there through 12, realistically I probably could have got a couple more out of it and got to 10 (under) for the day," he said. "But I'll take it."

He hit 11 of 14 fairways and 15 of 18 greens in regulation.

But the biggest different was his putting. He needed just 27 putts, his fewest of the week. A day after making just one putt longer than 6 feet, he missed only one inside 13 feet in the third round.

"It was nice. I made some putts today. That was basically the difference," he said. "I've hit quality irons before and I was able to convert today and got rolling early. This golf course, as humid as it is right now, these greens are going to be holding all day and I knew that going in and I knew I had to be a little bit more aggressive in there and put the ball in these sections, and I was able to do that."

Woods started the day tied for 68th, but moved into fifth after getting to 9 under at No. 12. His jump was the talk of the course, and the already huge gallery following his every move really started growing at the turn. By the time Woods and playing partner Mackenzie Hughes got to 16, the frenzied crowd was dozens deep and craning for a glimpse of golf's biggest star.

Spieth matched Woods for the best score in the third round. They were at 8-under 208.

Woods figured his stay near the top of the leaderboard would be a short one, but the wind picked up in the afternoon and no one matched the low score of the day.

"It's nice to kind of somewhat be up there," he said.

Hosmer's 13th-inning double lifts Padres to win vs Cards

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eric Hosmer hit an RBI double with no outs in the 13th inning to give the San Diego Padres a 2-1 victory against the St. Louis Cardinals on Saturday night.

Hosmer, San Diego's $144 million man, drove the first pitch from Mike Mayers down the right field line and after a few strides, tossed his batting helmet aside in celebration.

John Brebbia (1-0) had thrown two perfect innings for the Cardinals before walking A.J. Ellis to open the 13th. Ellis was replaced by pinch-runner Jordan Lyles, a starting pitcher, who advanced to second on a passed ball. Travis Jankowski walked and the Cardinals brought on Mayers to face Hosmer.

Adam Cimber (2-1) pitched a perfect 13th for the win.

Yankees 7, Athletics 6, 11 innings

In New York, left fielder Brett Gardner threw out Matt Olson at the plate with the help of a replay reversal, and the Yankees beat the Athletics on Neil Walker's run-scoring single in the 11th inning.

Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman walked three straight batters around a wild pitch starting the ninth. After visits to the mound by both pitching coach Larry Rothschild and a trainer to check on a cracked fingernail, Chapman struck out Mark Canha, and pinch-hitter Jonathan Lucroy followed with a fly ball to left.

Gardner's one-hop throw to the plate was slightly to the first-base side, and Gary Sanchez had to try for a sweep tag at the sliding Olson. Plate umpire James Hoye made an emphatic safe call, but the Yankees asked for a video review and replays appeared to show Sanchez's mitt just glancing Olson's jersey.

Astros 6, Rangers 1

In Houston, Charlie Morton struck out a career-high 14 in seven innings and Evan Gattis, Brian McCann and Carlos Correa homered, leading the Houston Astros to a win over the Texas Rangers.

Morton (5-0) yielded four hits and a run while lowering his ERA to 2.03. He also extended his career-long winning streak to eight games dating to last season.

Nationals 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Stephen Strasburg struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings, and the Nationals earned their third straight victory against the NL West leaders.

Strasburg (5-3) allowed one run and five hits in Washington's sixth win in seven games. The Nationals stranded 11 baserunners, but Bryce Harper and Anthony Rendon each drove in a run.

Braves 10, Marlins 5

In Miami, Freddie Freeman connected twice for Atlanta, and Jose Bautista atoned for a costly error with his first homer of the season.

The Braves broke a 5-all tie in the eighth inning, when Marlins relievers issued three consecutive walks -- each on a 3-2 pitch, and the last two with the bases loaded.

Cubs 8, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Willson Contreras hit his third homer in two games and drove in three runs, leading the Cubs to the win at a rainy and cold Wrigley Field.

Contreras finished with three hits as the Cubs won their fifth in a row.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Boston left-hander David Price pitched 5 1/3 innings to win his first start since being diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome.

Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run homer for the Red Sox, who have won 14 of their past 17 north of the border.

Indians 6, Royals 2

In Cleveland, Francisco Lindor homered twice and doubled twice to power Cleveland to the victory.

Lindor also scored four times. His third career four-hit game extended the All-Star shortstop's hitting streak to 13 games.

Rockies 4, Brewers 0

In Denver, Kyle Freeland pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Trevor Story homered twice and Colorado snapped a three-game losing streak.

Freeland (3-4) gave up four hits, struck out six and walked four in 6 1/3 innings.

Orioles 6, Rays 3, Game 1
Rays 10, Orioles 3, Games 2

In Baltimore, Brad Miller and C.J. Cron homered off former teammate Alex Cobb, and the Rays stopped a five-game slide by splitting a doubleheader.

In the opener, Orioles right-hander David Hess pitched six effective innings in his major league debut and Jonathan Schoop hit two home runs.

In the second game, the Rays scored a run in each of the first four innings against Cobb (0-5) and led 4-1 in the sixth when a thunderstorm stopped play for 1 hour, 19 minutes.

Tigers 4, Mariners 3, Game 1
Mariners 9, Tigers 5, Game 2

In Detroit, Robinson Cano hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning, and the Mariners slugged their way to a split of their doubleheader with the Tigers.

Detroit won the opener 4-3, thanks in part to a terrific catch by center fielder JaCoby Jones in the ninth inning.

In the second game, Healy's two-run homer off Michael Fulmer (1-3) put Seattle up 3-2 in the fourth, and Cano made it 6-2 in the fifth with his fourth home run of the season.

Pirates 6, Giants 5

In Pittsburgh, the Pirates are learning to win without Andrew McCutchen. A sudden power surge and a more mature approach on the bases is certainly helping.

Gregory Polanco and Francisco Cervelli homered and the Pittsburgh Pirates took advantage of a sloppy inning by former closer Tony Watson to slip by the San Francisco Giants for their fifth straight victory.

Cavaliers and Celtics ready for finals rematch

BOSTON (AP)—The jerseys and venues will be the same, but so much has changed since the last time Cleveland Cavaliers and Boston Celtics met in the Eastern Conference finals.

Kyrie Irving was dealt to Boston in a blockbuster offseason deal for Isaiah Thomas and Jae Crowder. But following a roster upheaval in February , the Cavs were left with only five players from last year's team that rolled past the Celtics 4-1 to earn a place in the NBA Finals.

Irving will watch this year's rematch from the sideline after a pair of knee surgeries late in the regular season denied him an opportunity to play this postseason. It was the capstone of an injury-plagued year in Boston that also saw the seasons of Gordon Hayward and rookie Daniel Theis truncated.

The one constant has been Cleveland's LeBron James, who at age 33 has again found another gear in the playoffs despite the different pieces surrounding him. His 34.3 scoring average in these playoffs is his highest since the 2009 postseason.

James can become the sixth player in league history to play in at least eight consecutive NBA Finals. The five others who have done so all played with the Celtics, led by Hall of Famer Bill Russell's run of 10 straight appearances.

AP

In this Jan. 3, 2018, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) works the ball inside during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston. There haven't been any championship banners raised into Boston's hallowed rafters since 2008. LeBron James won't let go of the rope.

James hasn't yet had a chance to reflect on his own run but says he isn't taking anything for granted at this point in his career.

"You dream about being able to play in big games in the NBA and even when I got to the NBA that was one of my only goals to be as great as I can be, to play in big games in the NBA and be remembered and I think I've done that in my career," he said. "Just trying to add onto it while I can."

The series starts Sunday in Boston. This is the eighth playoff matchup between the teams overall, with the Celtics leading 4-3.

The Celtics are seeking their first trip to the NBA Finals since 2010, when they got past James and the Cavs in the East semifinals.

Since Irving's injury, Celtics coach Brad Stevens has relied heavily on veteran Al Horford and a youthful corps that includes 24-year-olds Terry Rozier and Marcus Smart, 21-year-old Jaylen Brown and 20-year-old rookie Jayson Tatum.

Horford is averaging career playoff-high 17 points per game, while carrying the leadership torch.

Rozier has flourished in a starting role since Irving was sidelined in mid-March. It's carried over into the postseason where he is averaging 18.2 points per game. And Tatum is coming of a series against Philadelphia that saw him average 23.6 points per game—the second-highest by a Celtics rookie in franchise history.

"I feel like we more together (than last year)," Rozier said. "Obviously guys been going down all year and it's like you never know who's going to down. But we found a way, we pulled together."

As for Rozier's prediction for the series?

"Stay tuned," he said.

Some other things of note in the Eastern Conference finals:

Buckeye Roots

Like James, Rozier first bounced a ball in Northeast Ohio.

Rozier is from Shaker Heights, Ohio, a suburb on Cleveland's east side. He's been on James' hoops radar since he was a high school freshman. And while Rozier has been a breakout star in these playoffs to NBA fans, James knew he would eventually shine.

"He was a confident kid then when I watched him at Shaker. And he's a confident player now, so I'm not surprised," James said. "He's gotten better and better. It was a steal when they drafted him out of Louisville, and he's just showcasing his abilities. ... So, everybody is going crazy over what he's doing but I'm not. He's a local guy."

(TD) Garden Party

Boston has become a preferred spring destination for James.

After a 2-9 start to his playoff career in New England, James has won his six straight postseason games on the road against the Celtics, a streak that began with his epic 45-point, 15-rebound performance in Game 6 for Miami in the 2012 conference finals. In those six wins, James averaged 34.3 points, 9.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists.

James has averaged 30.5 points, 8.8 rebounds and 6.1 assists while going 8-9 on Boston parquet's hardwood.

Since losing two straight series with Cleveland to Boston in 2008 and 2010, James has eliminated the Celtics four times, going 8-1 in the past two matchups.

Celtic Pride

Indiana pushed Cleveland to seven games in the opening round. The Pacers were physical, resilient and confident.

The Cavs feel the young Celtics might be a greater challenge.

"Boston is better than Indiana," Cavs forward Kyle Korver said. "With as much respect as we have for Indiana, obviously, they took us to seven, I think defensively Boston is elite. They're really good. They're always in the right spot. They have a great game plan.

"For sure the Indiana series has prepared us for the playoffs in a lot of ways. Now that we're through that series, we're glad."

Houston's Capela develops into pivotal player for Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston's Clint Capela certainly isn't a household name, and doesn't get nearly the attention other centers like Ruby Gobert and Karl-Anthony Towns receive.

But after he outshined those stars the first two rounds of the playoffs, the league is taking notice that Capela is one of the pivotal pieces to Houston's success as the team prepares for its showdown with Golden State in the Western Conference finals starting Monday.

"What he does is as good or better than anybody in the league without a doubt," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Capela leads the NBA this postseason in blocks (2.8 a game) and offensive rebounds (4.1 per contest). He's fourth with 12.2 rebounds a game overall and his 14.4 point average in the playoffs ranks third on the Rockets behind James Harden and Chris Paul. This came after a regular season where the fourth-year player posted career highs in virtually every statistical category. He averaged 13.9 points, 10.8 rebounds and 1.9 blocks in helping the Rockets to 65 wins and their first No. 1 seed in franchise history.

"What he does has been unbelievable," D'Antoni said. "And he'll be overlooked. They'll say he's a role player and it's not true."

The Rockets insist that their high-powered, three-point centered offense wouldn't work the way it does without the 6-foot-10 Capela. His work as the finisher in Houston's pick and roll has proven valuable in the playoffs so far. His prowess in that area was on full display in Houston's Game 5 win that eliminated the Timberwolves in the first round. He shot 12 of 14 and finished with a game-high 26 points to help Houston to the 122-104 victory.

Harden has often said this season that Capela is the player that makes everything else work for the Rockets, and said Friday that he's undoubtedly developed into one of the league's best centers.

"For sure," Harden said. "He's done it for the last few years and he's definitely showing it now in the postseason. You've got guys that just are comfortable with being in the NBA and you've got guys that actually want to have a legacy and Clint's one of those guys."

To that end Capela is constantly trying to learn and add new wrinkles to his game. He was always picking the brain of eight-time All-Star Dwight Howard when he backed him up in his first two NBA seasons and he's developed a close relationship with former Rockets star and Hall of Famer Hakeem Olajuwon. Capela can often be seen working with and talking to Olajuwon at practice and Capela said Olajuwon has been impressed with the 23-year-old's progress.

"He just said I was great and playing with confidence and energy and to keep it up," Capela said.

While the Capela sees Olajuwon as one of his top mentors, he also appreciates a particular skill of another former Rocket. There are times after Capela blocks a shot that he wags one of his long fingers in the air as Dikembe Mutombo often did during his more than decade-long career in the NBA.

"Just having fun and also sending a message that it's still my paint," Capela said with a laugh.

Capela has had at least one block in each of Houston's playoff games this season and tied a career-best with six in Game 4 against the Jazz. Most impressive about that performance is that five of those blocks came in the last three minutes to help Houston secure the road victory.

He said that shot-blocking barrage was the product of his getting upset after receiving a rare technical earlier in the fourth quarter when he got tangled up with Donovan Mitchell and the two did a little jawing at each other.

"Whenever I got a little into it with this guy from the other team, it fired me up a little bit and I just decided that they wouldn't score anymore, not in my paint," he said. "So this is what happened."

Neymar still has fears over foot injury ahead of World Cup

SAO PAULO (AP)—Neymar still has fears weeks out from the World Cup in Russia about the right foot he broke.

In an interview published on Friday, the Brazil and Paris Saint-Germain striker said treatment has worked "but there is always that fear of it (the injury) coming back."

"I need to lose that fear as quickly as possible to arrive at the World Cup at my best," Neymar said in an interview on Zico's YouTube channel. "In the beginning we are hesitant about making the complete movement."

He cracked the fifth metatarsal that connects to the little toe in his right foot, and a week later, on March 3, he underwent surgery in Brazil. The diagnosis was he would be out for up to three months.

This week, Neymar returned to Paris to continue his rehabilitation, and is not expected to play for PSG, who signed him for a record 222 million euros (now $265 million) last August from Barcelona.

AP

In this Aug. 31, 2017 file photo, Brazil's Neymar, right, loses his balance, as he tries to control the ball during a 2018 World Cup qualifying soccer match against Ecuador in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The interview took place at his mansion in Mangaratiba, outside Rio de Janeiro.

Neymar said this season has been the least he's ever played, so he is rested for the World Cup that begins on June 14 in Moscow.

He said what he misses the most about his Barcelona days was his friendship with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

Brazil's first game at the World Cup is on June 17 against Switzerland. Serbia and Costa Rica are also in their group.

Meanwhile, before the World Cup kicks off in Russia, expect a hectic month of football politics that could transform the face of the game.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino is driving his agenda of adding new and bigger competitions, even as FIFA prepares a June 13 vote in Moscow to pick a 2026 World Cup host: Morocco or the United States-led North American bid.

It is FIFA's most intense pre-World Cup period since a financial crisis ahead of the 2002 edition.

In his day, former president Sepp Blatter ensured FIFA would not be so distracted so close to a World Cup that almost entirely funds the governing body.

Blatter would use the eve-of-tournament meeting of FIFA member federations to announce bonuses from World Cup profits—effectively starting his campaign to be re-elected the next year.

Infantino could also build toward winning a second term in June 2019 by moving to add 16 teams at the 2022 World Cup. He also wants to defy European skeptics and sign a deal potentially worth $25 billion which includes a new competition for more than 200 national teams.

MHS

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last weekend, as top finisher Jaime Pangelinan stepped on the make-shift stage along with fellow Dolphins Jerlyn Castillo, and Ruschell Valino. Pangelinan ruled the sprint race last Wednesday after clocking in at 8.1 seconds (unofficial results), while Castillo and Valino timed in at 8.35 seconds and 8.56 seconds, respectively. The three runners prevailed against another MHS student and two bets from Saipan Southern High School.

In the boys U18 division, Micronesian Games-bound Traven Quitugua of Southern made it to the finish line first after submitting 7.00 seconds. Agape Christian School's Kobe Yong (7.15 seconds) and MHS' Neldrei Skerei (7.25 seconds) rounded out the Top 3.

In the U15 division, Chacha Oceanview Middle School and Hopwood Middle School split top honors with Jay Palmes winning for the former and Kiana Aldan doing the same for the Hilitai. Palmes posted 7.47 seconds to beat Tinian Junior and Senior High School's Benni Gonzales (7.57 seconds) and Hopwood's Tily KIleleman (7.68). In the girls race, Aldan's 8.54 seconds prevailed against the 8.79 and 8.82 of Tinian's Charlene Danganan and Dandan Middle School's Leoni Acosta, respectively.

In the U13 age group, Hopwood had a sweep in the boys field, while two Tinian runners made it to the podium. A.J. Ruben (7.90 seconds), Rakib Hasan (8.10), and Chad Escaner (8.29) gave Hopwood the gold, silver, and bronze medals. Tinian's Casey Cruz took the gold in the girls division after checking in at 8.48 seconds, while Coleen Ching got the bronze after clocking n at 8.90 seconds. Saipan International School's Victoria Torres brought home the silver after registering 8.69 seconds.

Meanwhile, winners in the elementary division's (U7, U9, and U11) 60m sprint along with other events in the four-day tournament will be reported once results have been certified by Northern Marianas Athletics.

GCA

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set, but SIS is such a strong team and was able to come back," said Libut, who has been coaching at GCA for four years, but this was the first time he handled the school's girls team.

In the second set, SIS was on the attack mode, breaking away from the 11-11 standoff and withstanding GCA's comeback attempt to stay in contention. The Lady Geckos had their biggest lead at 22-15 after a spike from Sally Lai. Sensing trouble, Libut called timeout, hoping to stop SIS from winning the set.

When the game resumed, SIS and GCA had a rally, which the Lady Eagles stopped eventually, as Phan dropped the ball on an unguarded spot. However, that was it for GCA, as the Lady Geckos earned the needed points to win the second set. SIS took point No. 23 when two GCA players had miscommunication and neither hit the ball. Another error from GCA moved SIS within a point from taking the victory, as Torres tossed the ball, but no one from her team stepped in for the return. Malika Miyawaki then closed out for the Lady Geckos when she spiked the ball and the Lady Eagles' Cheska Dalusung went for a dink, but the ball bounced off the backline and no other GCA player was around for the second shot.

"We were a bit impatient in the second set, rushing to end the finals right there. SIS has a very good offense and we were able to see how good their players are in the second set when they attacked. After that loss, I just told our players to take time, play defensively, and wait for SIS to commit errors. We just have to play the ball if we have no clear shot and be patient in returning them and finding open spots," said Libut, adding that the searing heat inside the Ada gymnasium started to take its toll on his key players, so he had to pull out two of his starters to give them a brief break.

"I rested Karena (Torres) and Sunny (Woo) to give them a breather so they can reassess what's happening in the court and see how they should play or set up their teammates. The good five minutes were very helpful, as they were fresh going into the third set and managed to play better," the GCA coach added.

Woo reported back into the game with the match tied at 3-all, after Julia Ishikawa's spike went wide off to the backline. Woo served and got back-to-back aces for their 5-3 lead. SIS coach Mili Saiki sued for time to restore order on the Lady Geckos' side, however, the lull did not help the Lady Geckos cause, as GCA scored three more points, 8-3. Jasmine Phan connected on a spike, Ishikawa hit another wide spike, and GCA dropped the ball on an empty space at the backline.

Sides switched after the Lady Eagles got their eighth point and the eventual champions went on to take a promising 10-3 advantage after that, as another SIS spike was way off the sideline, while Dalusong converted on her own spike.

With GCA threatening to pull away, the Lady Geckos made a couple of changes on their lineup on the floor with Shea Hartig coming in and ending SIS' silence with her tap falling in front of two GCA defenders. SIS made it two in a row, thanks to a similar hit from Lai, 5-10.

GCA then got the 2 points back, 12-5, off Dalusong's back-to-back spikes, forcing Saiki to call her last timeout.

However, GCA moved closer to foiling the Lady Geckos' third straight attempt to win the title when Torres set up Phan for spike. Phan tried another one, but this time she overshot her mark. One more missed attempt—a Dalusong dink that hit the net—kept SIS in the game, 7-13.

Then there was a long rally in the next possession before Maria Gregoire went for a spike, but the ball rammed into the net and fell down, moving GCA within a point from clinching the title. The Eagles did so when Lai, who was at the frontline and not yet squared off for a shot with her back turned against the ball, used her left arm for a return off a first hit from Ishikawa. The ball jammed into the net, handing GCA the victory.

MARLINS

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stuck at third base. Earlier at the top of the second, the Marlins were also shut down when Javen Camacho grounded out David Apatang Jr. and fanned Jake Faisao and Peyton Pangelinan.

After being forced to a 1-2-3 in the second inning, the Marlins bounced back at the top of the third, thanks to Roque's one-run homer. His dinger came with the Braves one out away from closing out the third. Roque brought with him Audie, who walked, stole second base, and advanced to third off a passed ball. After Roque's roundtripper, the Braves went on to end the inning in the next play with Javen Camacho striking out Seman. Earlier, the Braves pitcher also fanned leadoff batter Stanley Iakopo Jr. and Austin Camacho.

With the Marlins now up, 3-0, with a little over 30 minutes left in the match that was limited to one hour (per league rules), the Braves were pressured to start scoring to remain in contention and they delivered at the bottom of the third, as they tied the match, 3-all.

Zion Cabrera finally put the Braves on the board when he singled, stole second and third, and slid home, as Marlins catcher Seman struggled to pick up the ball thrown from third base. The Braves also registered their two runs from the Marlins defensive meltdown with Iguel giving the former their second run and Javen Camacho scoring the equalizer with two outs.

Sablan got the two outs by fanning Arthur Magofna and Max Taitano and the Marlins pitcher went on to foil the Braves' bid to steal the lead when he also struck out Norita after Javen Camacho reached home. Sablan's third strikeout at the bottom of the third inning left Carl Hocog stranded at second. Hocog made it to first safely, as Marlins first baseman Audie was called for interference, nullifying the tag he did to Hocog and allowing Camacho to score the game-tying run. Hocog then stole second, but stayed there after Sablan's strikeout on Norita.

Sablan got a dose of his own medicine when Javen Camacho fanned him and the Marlins were called for a quick two outs at the top of the fourth inning, as Apatang grounded out at first. Faisao was next at bat and boosted the Marlins' chances for the championship when he doubled and eventually reached off the Braves' throwing error for their 4-3 lead. Peyton Pangelinan made it a 4-2 cushion when he moved to first off another Braves' boboo, marched into the second off a wild pitch from relief pitcher Iguel, and advanced to third and home off passed balls.

The Marlins then drew their third straight run from Stanley Jr., who walked, reached second and third off passed balls, and made it home off a fielder's choice. The Marlin had a chance to earn one more run with Audie, who was hit by pitch to move to first and stole second base, in scoring position after a wild pitch, but Iguel finally got the third out by fanning Austin Camacho.

After the Marlins regained the lead going into the bottom of the fourth inning, the Braves were left with seven minutes to go for one final push or surrender the division crown to their foes. Matthew Sablan led off for the Braves, walked, and stole second base, but was left there, as second batter Benjie Sablan was struck out by Nick Sablan. The Marlins pitcher went on to end the game and the Braves' title hopes when he also fanned Cabrera, who came up with an empty swing right in the closing seconds of the one-hour match.

2018 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club-1 U13 Team players and coach Krizel Tuason pose for a photo with their championship trophy after beating Matansa FC, 3-0, in the finals of the 2018 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup held early this month at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Matansa FC players and their coach are joined in the photo by NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita, second left, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, right, and NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka, second right.

Kanoa Football Club Girls U16 players and coach Raymond Zapanta, standing second right, pose with their third place trophy.

Matansa and Kanoa players battle for posseison.

A Matansa player helps tie the shoelace of their goalkeeper.

A Kanoa player goes up for a header.

Kanoa's Markus Toves kicks the ball.

A Matansa player, left, kicks the ball, while a Kanoa defender steps in for defense.

Woods shoots 65, his lowest score ever at Players

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Cavaliers and Celtics ready for finals rematch

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Marlins beat Braves in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Kagman Marlins' Peyton Pangelinan slides home during the top of the fourth inning of their title game against the NSA Braves in the Minor division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Kagman Marlins bagged the Minor division championship in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball after outclassing the NSA Braves, 6-3, in their title match last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Pitcher Nick Sablan was steady on the mound, Audie Iakopo scored two runs, Roque Pangelinan hit an one-run homer and was perfect at the plate, and the IT&E-sponsored Marlins had a three-run top of the fourth inning to prevail in the winner-take-all finale.

Roque's first at bat resulted in an RBI triple—Iakopo scoring the run—for the Marlins 1-0 lead at the top of the first. Roque was stuck at third base, as Braves starting pitcher Javen Camacho struck out Santiago Seman and Nick Sablan. Austin Camacho flied out for the first out.

The Marlins went on to keep the shaky lead after one complete inning, as Sablan also fanned two NSA Braves batters and Iguel, who singled, was stranded at second after Javen Camacho went down on a 4-3 putout play.

Sablan continued his strong pitching performance, as he struck out three more Braves batters at the bottom of the second inning with his last strikeout leaving Aiken Norita

See MARLINS on Page 26

GCA takes volleyball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy handed coach Cesar Libut a title in his maiden season, as the Lady Eagles outlasted Saipan International School in the girls high school finale of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GCA prevailed in the extended championship game, 25-18, 16-25, 15-7, leaving the Lady Geckos with another bridesmaid finish. SIS lost to Mt. Carmel School for two seasons before facing GCA this year and missing anew on its title bid.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan receives a serve from Saipan International School's Julia Ishikawa during the second set of their title game in the girls high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos were the favorites in last weekend's finals, as they were undefeated in the regular season to top the elimination, while the Lady Eagles were ranked third and bowed to SIS in three sets in their first meeting.

In their second duel, GCA got off to a good start, winning the opening set. However, the Lady Eagles failed to sustain their momentum, while SIS regrouped and displayed its offensive firepower in the second to tie the game and force a deciding third set.

"We thought we could close out the match in the second

See GCA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo races in the 400m run in the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex oval. Castillo also did the 60m race, which MHS swept.

MHS sweeps 60m sprint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas High School lorded it over in the girls U18's 60m sprint event of the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships that concluded last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

The podium was filled with MHS runners during the awards ceremony

See MHS on Page 26